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THE
L I F E
OF
FRANCIS BACON,
Lord Chancellor of *England*.

THE LIFE

OF

FRANCIS BACON



Lord Chancellor of England

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OF
FRANCIS BACON,
Lord Chancellor of *England*.

By Mr. MALLET.



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THE
L I B R A R Y

OF
THE
BRITISH MUSEUM



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TO THE
RIGHT HONORABLE,
THE
Earl of *Chesterfield*.

MY LORD,

THE first and most valuable quality of an *Historian* is a scrupulous attachment to truth. With-

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out this, all his other qualities, deserve little consideration; or rather are highly blameable: they serve only to mislead the reader, whom they pretend to inform and direct. As I have endeavoured, in the following sheets, to guide my self by this principle; the dedication of *such a work*, however otherwise inconsiderable, ought to be clear not only from the guilt, but from the imputation, of flattery.

YOUR

DEDICATION. vii

YOUR very enemies, my Lord, will acquit me of both, for inscribing it to you, as to the *Judge* and *Patron* of genius and wit: as to One besides, who has long exerted, in the true interest and for the honor of his *Country*, those Abilities which *History* most delights to celebrate.

THAT you may yet live, my Lord, many and happy years to serve that *Country*, you so eminently adorn; is, I am persuaded, the united wish of all those, upon whose
favour-

viii DEDICATION.

favourable opinion a great
and good man would value
himself. For me, I beg
leave to say, in this public
manner; that I am truly,
with that *kind* of regard
which neither fortune nor
birth alone can inspire,



MY LORD,

Your Lordship's

most devoted Servant,

D. MALLETT.

THE
L I F E
OF

Francis Bacon,

LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR
OF ENGLAND.

THE ancient *Egyptians* had
a law, which ordained, that
the actions and characters
of their Dead should be so-
lemnly canvassed before certain Judges;
in order to regulate what was due to
their memory. No quality, however
exalted, no abilities, however eminent,
could exempt the possessors from this
last and impartial trial. To ingenuous
minds this was a powerful incentive, in
the pursuit of virtue: and a strong re-
straint

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strait on the most abandoned, in their career of vice. Whoever undertakes to write the life of any person, deserving to be remembered by posterity, ought to look upon this law as prescribed to him. He is fairly to record the faults as well as the good qualities, the failings as well as the perfections, of the Dead; with this great view, to warn and improve the Living. For this reason, tho I shall dwell with pleasure on the shining part of my Lord *Bacon's* character, as a writer, I shall not dare either to conceal or palliate his blemishes, as a man. It equally concerns the public to be made acquainted with both.

SIR *Nicholas Bacon* was the first Lord Keeper of the Seals invested with all the dignity, and trusted with all the power, of a Lord Chancellor. This high employment he held under Queen *Elizabeth* near twenty years: a minister considerably learned, of remarkable prudence and honesty; serving his country

try with the integrity of a good man, and preserving thro the whole course of his prosperity that moderation and plainness of manners which adorn a great man. His second wife was a daughter of Sir *Anthony Cooke*, who had been preceptor to *Edward* the Sixth, and of whom historians have made honourable mention for his skill in the learned languages. Neither have they forgot to celebrate this Lady, on the same account. To the truth of which even an *Parsons* enemy bore testimony, while he re-
the Jesuit.
 proached her with having translated, from the *Latin*, Bishop *Jewel's* apology for the Church of *England*.

Such were the parents of *Francis Bacon*, whose Life I am writing. Of two sons, by this marriage, he was the youngest: and born at *York-House* in the *Strand*, the twenty-second of *January* 1561. As he had the good fortune to
 1561.
 come into the world at a period of time when arts and sciences were esteemed and

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cultivated, by the Great and Powerful, almost in the same degree they are now neglected; so he brought with him a capacity for every kind of knowledge, useful and ornamental. An original genius, formed not to receive implicit notions of thinking and reasoning from what was admitted and taught before him; but to prescribe laws himself, in the empire of learning, to his own and succeeding ages.

HE gave marks, very early, of a pregnant and happy disposition, far above his years. We are told that Queen *Elizabeth* took a particular delight in trying him with questions; and received so much satisfaction from the good sense and manliness of his answers, that she was wont to call him, in mirth, her young Lord Keeper. One saying of his deserves to be remembered. The Queen having asked him his age, while he was yet a boy; he answered readily, that

CHANCELLOR BACON.

that he was just two years younger than her happy reign.

OF his education I know no particulars, till he was sent to study in the university of *Cambridge* under Dr. *Whitgift*, afterwards Archbishop of *Canterbury*: and I find he was entered of *Trinity-College* in his twelfth year. The ^{16th of June} 1573. progress he made was rapid and uncommon: for he had run thro the whole circle of the liberal arts, as they were then taught, before he was sixteen. But what is far more surprizing; he began, even then, to see thro the emptiness and futility of the philosophy in vogue: and to conjecture, that useful knowledge must be raised on other foundations, and built up with other materials, than had been employed thro a tract of many centuries backward. In this, his own genius, aided by a singular discernment, must have been his only preceptor. In matters of reasoning, the Authority of *Aristotle* was still acknowledged infallible

ble in the Schools; as much as that of the Pope, in affairs of religion, had lately been acknowledged, there and every where else. And our Author may be justly stiled the first great Reformer of philosophy. He had the propensities, the voluminous and useless reading, nay he had the vanity of men grown old in contrary opinions, to struggle with: yet he lived to see a considerable revolution on his side. Another age brought over the Learned of all Nations to his party.

It may be justly wondered at, that the Lord Keeper, a minister of great observation on men and things, should have sent his son to travel at the age of sixteen; as we find he did: for, by a letter from Sir *Amias Powlet*, then Ambassador in *France*, it is certain that young *Bacon* was at *Paris*, and under his roof, in the year 1577. We need but look around us, to be convinced how little our Youth of quality, who
visit

visit foreign countries about that age, and went to profit either in taste, wisdom, or morals. But perhaps he discovered in his son a maturity of discretion and judgment beyond what is common to that early season of life. However that was, the Ambassador conceived a very favourable opinion of *Bacon*; for he sent him over to the Queen with a commission that required secrecy and dispatch: of which he acquitted himself with applause, and then returned to finish his travels. The native bent of his mind, strongly turned to reflection and enquiry, suffered him not to stop short at the study of languages, but led him higher to remark accurately on the customs and manners of those that spoke them; on the characters of their Princes, and on the constitution of their several governments. In proof of this, there is still extant among his works, a paper of observations on the general state of *Europe*, written by him shortly

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after this time; as I have discovered by a circumstance mentioned in it *

As he was the youngest son, so he seems to have been the favourite of his father; who had set apart a considerable sum of money to purchase an estate for him, in his absence. But before that kind intention could take effect, the Lord Keeper died suddenly, by the following accident. He was under the hands of his barber, and, the weather being sultry, had ordered a window before him to be thrown open. As he was become very corpulent, he presently fell asleep in the current of fresh air that was blowing in upon him; and awaked after some time, distempered all over. Why, said he to the servant, did you suffer me to sleep thus exposed? The fellow replied, that he durst not presume to disturb him. Then, said the Lord Keeper, by

* He says that *Henry III.* of *France* was then 30 years old: now that King began his reign in 1574, at the age of 24 years. So that *Bacon* was then nineteen.

CHANCELLOR BACON.

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by your civility I lose my life: and so removed into his bed-chamber, where he died a few days after. Thus there remained to his youngest son only the small proportion of a sum, which was to be divided among five brothers.

THE narrowness of his circumstances obliged him to think of some profession for a subsistence: and he applied himself, more thro necessity than choice, to the study of the common law. For that purpose, he placed himself in the society of *Gray's-Inn*, where his superior talents rendered him the ornament of the House: as the gentleness and affability of his deportment won him the affection of all its members. In his profession, he quickly rose to so much eminence and reputation, that, at the age of twenty-eight years, he was named by *Elizabeth* her learned council extraordinary: a distinction which he needed no assistance from his father's merit with her to deserve. It was however next
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to impossible that so noble a genius, born to embrace the whole compass of science, should confine its researches within the narrow and perplexed study of precedents and authorities: a study hedged round with brambles and thorns, dark and barbarous in its beginnings, and rendered in its progress still more obscure, by the learned dulness of commentators and compilers; men, for the most part, of indefatigable industry, and of no spirit or discernment. Accordingly we find that in this interval he often gave full scope to his conceptions; surveying the whole state of learning, observing its defects, and imagining the proper methods to supply them. This he first attempted in a treatise which he entitled *THE GREATEST BIRTH OF TIME*; as appears from a letter, written after his retirement, to father *Fulgentio the Venetian*, in which he passes a kind of censure on the pompous and swelling title prefixed to it. Tho the piece itself is lost, it appears to have been the
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the first outlines of that amazing design, which he afterwards filled up and finished in his grand Instauration of the sciences. As there is not a more amusing, perhaps a more useful speculation, than that of tracing the history of the human mind, if I may so express my self, in its progression from truth to truth, and from discovery to discovery; the intelligent reader would doubtless have been pleased to see, in the tract I am speaking of, by what steps and gradations a spirit like *Bacon's* advanced in building up, for more than thirty years together, his new and universal theory. He thought himself born for the use of human kind: and in the letter above mentioned styles himself, the servant of posterity.

THESE few hints for filling up this first part of our Author's life, trivial and unsatisfactory as they may appear, I have yet been obliged to glean here and there in the rubbish of several collections, where they lay scattered, without order

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or connection. But I shall now no longer regard *Bacon* as a mere philosopher; as a man of speculation who conversed only with books and his own thoughts, in the shade of retirement and leisure. The course of his fortunes produced him on the great theatre of the world, involved him in business, and complicated him with the most considerable persons of the age he lived in. He was honourably employed by one Prince, and highly preferred under another. It will be therefore necessary, that this history may have its due extent and usefulness, to exhibit a general prospect of the two reigns in which *Bacon* flourished and fell, at least in their principal points of view. The characters of those with whom he had any connection will illustrate his, and shew it in a truer, as well as a fuller light.

I HAVE yet another reason for enlarging this account beyond the ordinary limits. Our Author's letters are written,

ten, many of them at least, on public occasions, and may be considered as the most authentic vouchers for several remarkable occurrences, in which he himself was an actor, and well acquainted with the secret motives on which others acted. But as those things are for the most part only hinted at, or no farther opened than to serve the present purpose of his letter; they will require to be developed at some length, and ranged into their proper places.

ELIZABETH had a larger share of good sense and sound judgment than is commonly to be met with among women; accompanied with a greatness of mind and steadiness of purpose that might do honour to the best of men. These her natural endowments received much, tho' severe, improvement from the dangers she was exposed to in the first part of her life. She grew up in a strict attention over her own actions, even over her looks and words, from
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the rigor of her father's temper, and particularly from the jealous cruelty of her sister's administration: a short but memorable period of time when *England* beheld, under a female reign, such instances of merciless rage, such scenes of horror, as had of old startled the *Roman* World, under a *Nero* and a *Damitian*. The dreadful genius of that superstition to which she had devoted herself, then exerted its spirit undisguised, in betraying, tormenting, butchering, by the ministry of inhuman priests and inquisitors, whoever would not profess what he could not possibly believe. If we may credit Historians, they had even doomed *Elizabeth* herself to die: and she escaped, miraculously, not by the kindness, but the policy of *Philip*, himself a tyrant, the coolest and most determined of these latter ages.

At her accession to the throne, she found her revenues anticipated or exhausted; her kingdom, thro' the sanguinary

nary madness of her predecessor, disjointed and broken of its vigor within: at the same time unsupported by allies and without consideration abroad. Her good sense led her to see, by the errors of her father and her sister, that she could expect to reign with security, only by deserving the confidence and gaining the love of the nation: and that in order thereto, she must propose to herself no other end of ruling but the happiness and honour of all her people. This system of polley, so simple in itself, so glorious in its consequences, and yet by princes so seldom pursued, she adhered to steadily, almost uniformly, thro a long and triumphant reign; for this very reason triumphant.

THE reformation of religion she attempted and effected; at a season when her power was unconfirmed, and in probable danger from intestine commotions. For revolutions in religion are apt to put the whole constitution of a society
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into ferment, even more strongly than alterations in government; as every individual is immediately and intimately actuated by what seems to him of highest and most lasting concern. She kept awake, and animated, with wonderful address, the divisions in *Scotland*, in *France*, in the *Netherlands*: and that with more justice on her part than is usually observed by princes when they would do ill offices to their neighbours. The sovereigns of those countries, when they agreed in nothing else, were ever combined in a common enmity to her: at a time too when she had nothing to oppose against their pretensions, their conspiracies, their open attacks, but her own courage and the native strength of *England* alone. And yet, by helping forward the reformation in *Scotland*; by supporting the protestants in *France*; by the wise and well-managed supplies she sent to the *Dutch*, who were struggling hard for their lives and liberties with an unrelenting tyrant; by this series

series of conduct, steadily pursued, she triumphed over all opposition; and rendered her self the arbitress of *Europe*. For it may be affirmed; that her administration made a greater impression on all the states round her, than it received itself from any: an undoubted proof of its firmness and active vigor.

WHEN she came to the crown, she found the nation four millions in debt: a sum then almost incredible! and yet her oeconomy alone enabled her to discharge it. The Coin, which had been much embased by *Henry* the Eighth, and by *Mary* wholly neglected, she quickly restored to its just standard; and therewith the public faith and credit. Her magazines she carefully replenished with arms, ammunition, warlike stores of every kind: and the youth all over *England* were ordered to be duly trained in military exercises. Her navy was fallen to decay, and almost abandoned. This she set herself to repair, with an attention

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tion, which the great bulwark of this kingdom will ever deserve from a Prince, who understands in what his own strength and that of his dominions naturally consist. Her fleet was at last a match for the mighty *Armada* of *Spain*: that *Armada* boasted to be invincible, and which was in truth a desperate effort of the whole power and resentment of her bitterest enemy. Her victory over him, as entire as it was glorious, gave security and renown to this Island: and, whatever the partiality of foreign writers may have insinuated to the contrary, she owed it to her own heroical conduct, and the unexampled bravery of her subjects.

SHE was the first of our princes who pursued, in any considerable degree, the only sure method of making *England* great and powerful; by encouraging and extending our commerce: which, under her protection, grew high, and spread itself thro the *North* and to both the *Indies*. In a word, such was her conduct,

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such

such her good fortune, in this Island and on the Continent, that her allies had the strongest confidence in her assistance and good faith: that her enemies stood in awe of her power, and were forced to an unwilling approbation of her prudence. The applause of such as think they have cause to hate, and distress us, is the sincerest, as it is the noblest praise. Her oeconomy was admirable. She husbanded the public money for her people's ease: she laid it out, on proper occasions, for their safety and honour. The undertakings of the government were never greater; the charge was never less. This gives the highest idea of her ministry, and places their characters, in general, above imputation or reproach.

OF Sir *Nicholas Bacon*, our Author's father, I have already given some account: and shall only add here, that he never aspired beyond the rank he brought with him to court. His moderation in all other respects was the

same. When the Queen visited him at his seat in *Hertfordshire*, she told him with an air of pleasantry, that his house was too little for him. No, replied the Lord Keeper; but your Majesty has made me too great for my house.

WALSINGHAM, in his private character, was of unblemished honesty. As a minister he had singular sagacity in procuring intelligence; which he knew to apply, with great dexterity, to the purposes of government: devoting himself, with so generous a self-neglect, to the service of his country, that he gained a reputation for contempt of riches, which would have been highly revered in the best times of antiquity; and will go near, in these days, to be thought either folly or frenzy.

THE Lord Treasurer *Burleigh*, for his consummate abilities as a statesman, was reckoned the first name of his age:
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and is still pointed out as a pattern, which we rather wish, than expect, to see fully copied by his successors in power. As he had strong natural parts, and was of unwearied application to business, his experience must have been universal and unequalled; for he was at the head of the government almost forty years. He seems, in particular, to have been eminently possessed of that intrepidity of head, that civil courage, so necessary in a great minister: and without which no minister will never do any thing truly noble, or of lasting utility to mankind. Inviolably attached to his Mistress, he served her with equal fidelity and success: and had the singular felicity to promote the good of his country by the same arts that he employed to gratify the inclinations of his sovereign.

THE glory of this princess will receive a new lustre by comparing the state of *England* with that of almost all other nations in *Europe*, at the same time.

time. It must have been no common addition to the tranquillity and happiness of our ancestors, that they enjoyed both, uninterrupted, for such a length of years; while *Scotland* and *France*, *Spain* and *Holland*, were torn with continual divisions, and bleeding by the wounds of foreign and domestic wars. Hers too was the Age of heroes both in arts and arms. Great captains, able statesmen, writers of the highest order arose, and under her influence flourished together. Thus *Bacon* had all the incentives that could kindle him up to a generous ambition, and quicken his emulation in the pursuit of knowledge and honest fame. And indeed his letters remain a proof, that if he courted the proper opportunities of raising his name, he lost none that might improve and enlarge his mind. As the Lord Treasurer had married his aunt, we find him frequent in his applications to that minister for some place of credit and service in the state. He professes too, that his
views

Bacon,
Vol. IV.
Letter 7.

views on this head are as moderate, as his aims another way are ambitious and vast; for that he had taken all philosophy for his province. My Lord *Burleigh* interested himself so far on his behalf as to procure for him, against violent opposition, the office of Register to the *Star-Chamber*, worth about 1600*l.* a year: but it was only in reversion, and did not fall to him till near twenty years afterwards. Neither did he obtain any other preferment all this reign: tho his winning address, his eloquence, his large and systematical learning had raised him to the admiration of the greatest men at court. He was particularly esteemed and patronized by *Robert Devereux*, the famous and unfortunate Earl of *Essex*; to whom he attached himself in his younger years, and by whose interest in the Queen he flattered himself with the prospect of bettering his condition. *Elizabeth* herself shewed him several marks of distinction, admitted him often to her presence, and

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even consulted him on the state of her affairs: as her ministers sometimes made use of his pen in the vindication of her government. And yet, notwithstanding these fair appearances, he met with no preferment from that Queen answerable to the idea we have of his merit, or her discernment in the distribution of favours. This deserves some explanation; as it will discover to us the true genius of those ministers, who pretending to merit themselves, are jealous of it in all other men: who are equally poor-spirited and aspiring.

THE whole court was at this time rent into factions, headed on one part by the Earl of *Essex*; on the other by the *Cecils*, father and son. *Essex* was then in all the flower of his youth, and remarkable for the gracefulness of his person. In his nature brave, ambitious, popular: And what is uncommon, at once the favourite of the Sovereign and of the Nation. Fond of military glory;
liberal

liberal to profusion; devoted entirely to his friends, and keeping no measures with his enemies; of competent learning himself, and a signal benefactor to learned men. One quality he had, which distinguishes him eminently from such as are personally beloved by Princes: in the height of his favour he received the admonitions, the remonstrances of his friends with all gentleness; and was ever most patient of the truth. But then he wanted those arts which are most necessary in a courtier; and are indeed the only qualities which the rabble of courtiers value themselves upon; circumspection, cunning, affectation of secrecy, with a servile obsequiousness to the humours of their superiors, and a mean but anxious attention to their own interest, whether at the expence of their patrons, or of their country. A different turn of mind gave the Earl's enemies great advantages against him. They failed not to represent to the Queen, on several occasions, that this young Lord,
not

not satisfied with the distinction of being her favourite, pretended to be her master; and prescribed to her judgment on affairs of state, with a haughtiness ill becoming the distance betwixt a Sovereign, and the Creature of her bounty. Such insinuations, as they were partly true, could not fail of making an impression on *Elizabeth*, who was naturally high spirited, and infinitely jealous of her authority. Tho she had a particular fondness for the Earl, she took occasion every now and then to mortify his pride by refusing to advance those friends of his whom he recommended for preferment. After his return from the expedition to *Cadiz*, in which he had behaved himself with much gallantry, she raised his enemy, Sir *Robert Cecil*, to be Secretary of State; tho he had earnestly solicited that post for another. He had often applied to her in behalf of *Bacon*, and asked for him, with all the warmth of friendship, the place of Solicitor General; but had been always refused.

fused. *Cecil*, who mortally hated *Effex*, and had entertained a secret jealousy of *Bacon*, on account of his superior talents, represented the latter to the Queen as a man of mere speculation; as one wholly given up to philosophical enquiries, new indeed and amusing, but fanciful and unsolid: and therefore more likely to distract her affairs than to serve her usefully and with proper judgment. *Bacon* however was this man's cousin-german; his father and the Lord *Burleigh* having married two sisters: but Ambition knows neither merit nor relation. This unworthy treatment from so near a kinsman carried *Bacon* into very free expostulations on his courtly artifices, as he endeavoured in secret to crush the man whom yet he pretended openly to serve: and these repeated disappointments sunk so deep into his spirit, that he was several times on the point of retiring for ever, and even of hiding his grief and resentment in some foreign country. *Effex*, who could but

ill brook the mortification of a denial, finding himself unable to serve his friend in a public way, would needs make up the loss to him out of his own private

Bushe's a-
bridg.
post. p. 1.

fortune: and if we may believe *Bushe*, he bestowed upon him about this time *Twickenham-Park* and its garden of *Paradise*. Whether it was that or some other of his lands, the donation was so very considerable, that *Bacon*, as himself acknowledges in his apology, sold it afterwards, even at an under price, for no less than eighteen hundred pounds. A bounty so noble, accompanied too, as we know it was, with all those agreeable distinctions that to a mind, delicately sensible, are more obliging than the bounty it self, must kindle in the breast of a good man the most ardent sentiments of gratitude, and create an inviolable attachment to such a benefactor. What then are we to think of *Bacon*, when we find him, after this nobleman's unhappy fate, publishing to all *England* a Declaration of the treasons
of

of *Robert Earl of Essex*? This behaviour drew upon him a heavy and general hatred at that time; which was not extinguished even by his death, but continues still, in the writings of more than one historian, an imputation on his memory. As this transaction is of importance to his moral character, I will lay it before the reader as impartially as I can.

ELIZABETH had raised that young Lord, thro a series of honors, to be Earl Marshal of *England*: and was every day giving him new proofs of a particular and uncommon esteem. This only served to exasperate his enemies. They were powerful, and closely united. But as they durst not attack him openly, they had recourse to dark and surer arts of vengeance; against which his openness of temper, unsuspecting and improvident, was no wise guarded. In truth, his imperious humour, which he could seldom disguise, aided their designs; for it
often

often broke forth into downright abuse and scorn of those who thwarted his projects, or dissented from his opinions: and he once, in some dispute with the Queen herself, turned his back abruptly upon her with all the marks of disrespect and contempt. Provoked at this insolence, *Elizabeth*, forgetting her sex and the dignity of her character, struck the Earl a box on the ear: which he on his part, with a meanness of passion yet less excusable in a man, resented so highly as to lay his hand on his sword, against a woman and his sovereign. No subsequent favours could wear this imaginary affront out of his memory; tho she pardoned him the insult that occasioned it, and sent him shortly after into *Ireland*, as her viceroy, with a commission almost unlimited. His conduct there has not escaped the censure of historians, who have remarked severely on the unjustifiable treaty he made with the Arch-rebel *Tyrone*, on the private conference they held together, and on his precipitate return

return to *England*, against the Queen's express orders. This last ill step he was betrayed into; if we may believe *Osborn*,^{Mem. of Q. Eliz. p. 458.} by an artifice of *Cecil*: who first inflamed *Elizabeth's* suspicions of the Earl, and then stopped all vessels that were to sail for *Ireland* except one which he ordered thither on purpose with a feigned report of her death. Fatally deceived by this intelligence, *Essex* sailed away in a hurry for *England*, attended only by a few of his friends. The Queen received him without any emotion either of anger or affection, and having confined him to his own house, ordered his conduct to be examined in the star-chamber. At this usage of him; however gracious and moderate, the people, whose idol he was, loudly exclaimed: and their unseasonable partiality, represented by his adversaries as of dangerous tendency to the state, kindled anew the Queen's indignation against him. Thus that popularity he had so eagerly courted, and so much depended upon, served
now

now only to hasten forward his destruction. He was sentenced by the council to be removed from his place at that board; to be suspended from his offices of Earl Marshal and Master of the ordnance, and to be imprisoned during the Queen's pleasure. Having humbled him thus far, she stopt short, forbidding his sentence to be entered on record, and still continuing him Master of the Horse. She even gave him the full enjoyment of his liberty, upon his expressing a perfect resignation to her pleasure; but withal advised him to be his own keeper. His seeming repentance was of short duration; for upon the Queen's refusal to grant him the farm of sweet wines, which he had very imprudently petitioned for, he returned out of the country, and again abandoned himself to all the impetuosity of his temper; or rather to the pernicious suggestions of his followers. Indeed, the presumption that naturally grows out of successful ambition, and the interested counsels of those
whose

whose fortunes were involved with his, seem to have entirely turned his head: for his actions henceforward were the genuine effects of frenzy and despair. In conjunction with his friends, of several conditions, he meditated no less an attempt than to seize on the palace, to make himself master of the Queen's person, and to banish from about her all those whom he reputed his enemies. Never was conspiracy so ill laid, or conducted with so little probability of success. The court was presently alarmed, his house invested, himself and his friends made prisoners, without any resistance on his part; for tho he was embarked in a kind of rebellion, he knew not how to be a rebel. The particulars of his tryal are foreign to my purpose. It was managed against him by Sir *Edward Coke*, the Attorney General, and by *Bacon* as one of the Queen's council. It ought not to be forgot that the former treated this unfortunate Nobleman with a strain of petulant dulness and scurrility

State Try-
als, Vol.I.
p. 205.

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that makes us condemn his talent as a pleader, while we abhor the purpose to which he made it subservient. *Bacon* was moderate and decent. The crime was proved by a cloud of witnesses: and the unanimous suffrage of his peers found him guilty. After his sentence he appeared wholly indifferent to life or death: tho the Queen seemed still irresolute, or rather enclining to save him. He died with the tenderness of a penitent, and the firmness of a hero: tho the Marshal *de Biron* jested on his deportment in that last scene of life, as suiting rather a monk than a soldier.

THE untimely fate of this nobleman, who died on a scaffold in the prime and vigour of his years, excited universal pity, and was murmured against by all conditions of people. Their reflections on the prevailing party at court, even on the Queen her self, were so bold and injurious, that the administration thought it necessary to vindicate their conduct in

a public appeal to the people. This task was assigned to *Bacon*, even then in high esteem for his excellencies as a writer. Some say it was by his enemies insidiously imposed on him, to divert the national resentment from themselves upon a particular person, who was known to have lived in friendship with *Essex*, and whom they intended to ruin in the public esteem. If such was their intention, they succeeded but too well in it. Never man incurred more universal or more lasting censure than *Bacon* by this writing. He was every where traduced as one who endeavoured to murder the good name of his benefactor, after the ministry had destroyed his person. His life was even threatened: and he went in daily hazard of assassination. This obliged him to publish, in his own defence, the apology we find among his writings. It is long and elaborate; but not, perhaps, in every part satisfactory. Let us believe him on his own testimony, that he had never done that Nobleman

V. a declarat. of the treasons of R. Earl of *Essex*. Vol. IV. p. 386.

Apology; Vol. IV. p. 429.

any ill offices with the Queen; tho she herself had, it seems, insinuated the contrary: that on the other hand he had always, during the time of their intimacy, given him advice no less useful than sincere; that he had wished, nay endeavoured the Earl's preservation even at last, purely from affection to him, without any regard to his own interest in that endeavour: let all this be allowed; some blemish will still remain on his character.

ESSEX deserved the fate he underwent; but he had paid his debt to justice; and the commonwealth had now nothing to fear from any of his party. The declaration above mentioned could therefore be intended, only to still the present clamours of the multitude: and tho the matter of it might be true, *Bacon* was not the man who should have published those truths. He had been long and highly indebted to the Earl's friendship, almost beyond the example even of that age.

age. In another man this proceeding might not have been blameable: in him it cannot be excused. Sir *Henry Teler-ton*, in the next reign, ventured on the displeasure both of the King and his minion, rather than do the ministry of his office, by pleading against the Earl of *Somerset*, who had made him Solicitor ^{Aul. Co-qui. p. 186.} General. Had *Bacon* refused that invidious part, there were others, among the herd of aspiring and officious Lawyers, ready enough to have performed it: and his very enemies must have thought more advantageously of him for declining a task, in itself of no essential importance to the state, and in him unjust to friendship, obligation, gratitude, the most sacred regards among men.

ELIZABETH survived her Favourite about a year: and, if we may credit *Osborn*, grief and remorse for his fate accompanied her to the grave*. She ^{Osborn, p. 459.}

D 3

died

* He is the first author who mentions the story of the ring.

died the twenty fourth of *March* 1603, in the fulness of days and honour. Her reign had been long and triumphant: and she had thro the whole course of it preserved, what she so justly merited, the love and veneration of her people; the truest glory, the rarest felicity of a Sovereign. She was succeeded by *James* the Sixth of *Scotland*, under whom *Bacon* ascended, by several steps, to the highest dignity of the law.

An. 1603.

THIS Prince, the most unwarlike that ever lived, was born in the midst of civil commotions; at a time when his whole kingdom was torn into factions, betwixt the party who had espoused the interests of his mother, and those who had declared for him. After he had taken the administration into his own hands, he was hardly ever his own master; suffering himself to be led implicitly by the cabal in whose power he then happened to be. The moment he thought himself at liberty from either,
like

like a boy escaped from under the eye of a rigid preceptor, he forgot all his uneasinesses, and abandoned himself to his favourite amusements of hawking and hunting, as if his kingdom had been in the profoundest tranquillity. He grew up in an unaccountable fondness for favourites. The first, who took deep root with him, was likewise the worst; not only encouraging him in a total inapplication to business, but tincturing his youth with the poison of all debauchery. The name of this man was *Stuart*, Melvil's Mem. p. 131. afterwards Earl of *Arran*; one who had great and dangerous vices, without a single virtue, private or public, to atone for them: an open scoffer at the obligations of morality, insolent, rapacious, sanguinary; hated by, and hating, all good men. The honest part of the nobility often remonstrated against the credit and pernicious influence of this Minion: *James* acknowledged the justice of their remonstrances; banished him several times from court; and several

Mek. il.
p. 200.

ral times received him into new favour. He was at length shot by a private hand in revenge for the death of the Earl of *Morton*, to which he had basely contributed.

P. 132.

JAMES hated the church of *Scotland*: and confirmed its authority. He declared the attempt of those Lords, who had rescued him out of the hands of *Arran* and *Lennox*, to be just and serviceable: he afterwards banished them,

P. 139.

and would have confiscated their estates, on that very account. When they had made themselves masters of his person a

P. 169.

second time, he pronounced them all traitors; and pardoned them.

ELIZABETH, who knew his genius perfectly, sent Mr. *Wotton* on an embassy to him in 1585. Her intention was to divert him from a marriage with the Princess of *Denmark*, and to give his counsels what other turn her interests might require. The ambassador, a man
of

of address and intrigue, had, by long habitude, learnt to personate all characters, and to assume, with an ease that seemed altogether unaffected, whatever shape might serve most effectually the purposes of his superiors. At the age of P. 161. twenty-one he had been employed to sound the intentions of the court of *France*: and had well nigh duped the famous Constable *de Montmorency*, a minister grown grey in the observation of human falsehood and artifice. To his natural talent he had now added the experience of thirty years more. By accompanying King *James* in his sports; by falling in frankly, and as it were naturally, with all his passions; by making a jest of business; by entertaining him pleasantly with an account of foreign fashions and follies; this man gained an absolute ascendant not only over his understanding, but over his humour. His most faithful subjects, who had served him longest and best, who had even warned him against the subtleties of this stranger,

P. 164.

stranger, he received with approbation or dislike, just as *Wotton* inspired him. He was even brought by him to be seriously persuaded that the King of *Denmark* was descended from a race of merchants; and that an alliance with his daughter was therefore infinitely beneath a King of *Scotland's* dignity.

An. 1603.

SUCH was the Prince who now mounted that throne, which *Elizabeth* had filled with so great capacity and reputation. The union of the two crowns in the person of one Sovereign, was extremely dreaded by foreigners, and in particular by *Henry* the Fourth of *France*. The accession of a new kingdom to the native force of *England*, which even alone had been long formidable on the continent; the alliance of *James* with the most potent monarch of the *North*; his relation to the house of *Lorraine* which had lately embroiled all *France*, rendered such fears very probable. But his conduct dissipated them for ever:
and

and all *Europe* quickly saw, that no people but his own had any thing to apprehend from his power. At his arrival in *England*, he bestowed titles and honours with so wild a profusion, that there hardly remained any other mark of distinction but that of having escaped them. The public stood amazed: and *Wilson*,
 pasquinades were openly affixed, undertaking to assist weaker memories to a competent knowledge of the Nobility. Sir *Francis Bacon*, who had been early in his homage, and application for favour, to the new Sovereign, was knighted by him in person: and has left us the following picture of him, strongly touched in its most obvious features. “ His *Bacon*,
 “ speech, says he, is swift and cursory; Vol. IV.
 “ and in the full dialect of his country; Letter 7
 “ in matters of business, short; in general discourse, large. He affecteth popularity, by gracing such as he hath heard to be popular; not by any fashions of his own. He is thought somewhat general in his favours: and
 “ his

“ his easiness of access is rather because
 “ he is much abroad and in a croud,
 “ than that he giveth easy audience.
 “ He hasteneth to a mixture of both
 “ kingdoms and occasions faster, per-
 “ haps, than policy will well bear.”

An 1603. { IN 1605, Sir *Francis Bacon* recom-
 mended himself to the King's particular
 notice, as well as to the general esteem
 of his cotemporaries, by publishing a
 work he had long meditated; *The Pro-
 gress and Advancement of Learning*.
 The great aim of this treatise, no less
 original in the design than happy in the
 execution, was to survey accurately the
 whole state and extent of the intellectual
 world; what parts of it had been unsuc-
 cessfully cultivated; what lay still neg-
 lected, or unknown: and by what me-
 thods these might be discovered, and
 those improved, to the farther advantage
 of society and human nature. By expo-
 sing the errors and imperfections of our
 knowledge, he led mankind into the
 only

only right way of reforming the one, and supplying the other: he taught them to know their wants. He even went farther, and himself pointed out to them general methods of correction and improvement in the whole circle of arts and sciences. This work he first published in *English*: but to render it of more extensive use, he recommended a translation of it into *Latin* to Dr. *Play-*^{Tennison's}
fer of *Cambridge*. *Playfer*, with the^{Baconia-}
^{na, p. 25,} scrupulous accuracy of a grammarian, was more attentive to fashion his stile to purity and roundness of periods, made out of the phraseology he had gleaned from classic writers, than to render his author's meaning in plain and masculine language. After the sight of a specimen or two, Sir *Francis* did not encourage him to proceed in it. He himself, after his retirement, very much enlarged and corrected the original, and with the assistance of some friends turned the whole into *Latin*. This is the edition

of

of 1623; and stands as the first part to his great Instauration of the Sciences.

I HAVE already observed that *Cecil*, now Earl of *Salisbury*, opposed the progress of our author's fortune under *Elizabeth*: and he seems to have observed the same conduct towards him in the present reign, till he had fixed himself in the King's confidence so firmly as to be above all fear of a rival. Besides him, Sir *Francis Bacon* found a violent and lasting enemy in a man of his own profession, Sir *Edward Coke*; who, with great parts, had many and signal failings. The quarrel betwixt them seems to have been personal: and it lasted to the end of their lives. *Coke* was jealous of *Bacon's* reputation in many parts of knowledge: by whom, again, he was envied for the high reputation he had acquired in one; each aiming to be admired, particularly for that in which the other excelled. This affectation in two extraordinary men has something in

Stephens's
Collec-
tions, p.ix.

in it very mean, and is not uncommon. The former was the greatest Lawyer of his time; but could be nothing more. If the latter was not so, we can ascribe it only to his aiming at a more exalted character. The universality of his genius could not be confined within one inferior province of learning. If learning thus divided is not so proper to raise a singular name in one way, it serves to enlarge the understanding on every side, and to enlighten it in all its views. As the name of Sir *Edward Coke* will occur oftner than once in this history, and as he stood in particular competition to *Bacon*, I beg leave to dwell a little longer on his character. In his pleadings he was apt to insult over misery. Of this we have a detestable instance in his behaviour to Sir *Walter Raleigh*. He inveighed against that brave man on his tryal with all the bitterness of cruelty, and in a stile of such abandoned railing as bordered almost on fury: I wish I could not add, that this bitter-

State Try-
als, Vol. I.
p. 207, &c.

bitterness; this intemperance of tongue, seem to be the genuine effusions of his heart *. He conversed it seems more with books than men; and among the latter, with those only to whom he could dictate and give the law. The consequence of which was, that his conversation had all the air of a lecture; and that he retailed for new, a hundred stories that were either stale or trivial. He affected raillery, which was by no means his talent. His wit was often ill aimed, as it was always indelicate and vulgar; the rough horse-play of a pedant. Tho he had accumulated immense wealth, in his profession and by several rich marriages, he was of a sordid avarice; a severe master, a griping landlord. In prosperity

* The offices of Attorney and Solicitor-General have been rocks upon which many aspiring Lawyers have made shipwreck of their virtue and human nature. Some of those Gentlemen have acted at the bar as if they thought themselves, by the duty of their places, absolved from all the obligations of truth, honor, and decency. But their names are upon record, and will be transmitted to after-ages with those characters of reproach and abhorrence that are due to the worst sort of murderers; those that murder under the sanction of justice.

prosperity insolent; dejected and fawning in adversity: the same poorness of spirit influencing his behaviour in both conditions. One example of this may serve in place of several. After his disgrace, he submissively courted *Buckingham's* brother to a match with his daughter: in the height of his favour, he had rejected the same proposal with scorn. His profound skill in the common law has been universally allowed: and to this we cannot have a more unquestionable witness than Sir *Francis Bacon*; Vol. IV. one every way fit to judge, and an enemy. ^{P. 3.} He was raised to be Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in 1606, and of the King's Bench in 1613. On the Bench he was above corruption: and had this saying frequently in his mouth, that a Judge should neither give nor take a bribe. In the case of *Peacham*, ^{Bacon} in the business of Commendams, he behaved himself with the honesty and firmness of one who knew that a Judge ought neither to be flattered nor menaced

Vol. IV.
Lett. 145.

naced out of his integrity. Towards the latter part of his life, he struck in with the country party in parliament, and stood in the breach against the arbitrary measures of *James* and *Charles*. He died in the reign of the latter, aged 86 years.

At length Sir *Francis Bacon* obtained the place he had so long expected: and in 1607 was declared Solicitor-General. This preferment was the effect of many letters and much instance on his part, to the Earl of *Salisbury*, the Lord Chancellor *Egerton*, and the King himself. Neither do I find that he was ever promoted to any post without repeated and earnest application to ministers and favourites: a reflection that may serve, at once to mortify, and instruct, an ambitious man of parts.

JAMES had, from the beginning of his reign, passionately desired an union of *Scotland* and *England*: but his unreasonable

sonable partiality to the former, reckoning it as an equal half of the island, rendered the design abortive. Tho Sir *Francis Bacon* laboured this argument with all the arts of wit and reason, his eloquence, powerful as it was, had no effect on the house of Commons. The Parliament even shewed itself averse to this union, in proportion as the Court appeared zealous for it. The new Sovereign's conduct had alarmed them: They saw, that, with a strong disposition to be profuse, he was absolutely in the power of favourites: and that some of the least valuable among his subjects were most in his favour. They saw farther, that he began already to propagate maxims of government destructive to liberty, and inconsistent with the whole tenor of the constitution. These things filled observing men with apprehensions for the future, which unhappily were but too well founded. The whole sum of his politics, both now and afterwards, was to distaste and alienate his subjects at

home; to dishonour both himself and them abroad. It was a reign of embassies and negociations, alike fruitless and expensive: a reign of favourites and proclamations, of idle amusements and arbitrary impositions. It was besides the great era of flattery. The ancient national simplicity of manners which ever accompanies magnanimity, and manly freedom of speech the noble effect of both, were now in a great measure lost; altered and effeminated into prostitute adulation and servile homage. This was become the fashionable language among the Clergy as well as Laity; and *James* heard himself daily addressed to, by the titles of sacred and divine: titles which discover the meanness rather than the dignity of human nature; and which, applied to him, were glaringly ridiculous. He had not one princely quality. The arts of governing a kingdom in peace he either did not, or would not understand: and his horror of war was constitutional and unconquerable.

It

It may therefore seem unaccountable that a King of this temper should treat his parliaments with more haughtiness than any of his predecessors had ever done. But he had been told that *England* was neither to be exhausted nor provoked: and his actions shewed that he believed so, according to the letter. The truth is, that as pusillanimity will talk bigger on some occasions than true valor on any; he meant to make himself formidable to his people, that they might not discover how much he was afraid of them.

THO he did not succeed in the union of the Kingdoms, he found his Judges, in an affair of a similar kind, more complaisant than the great Council of the nation had been: I mean the naturalization of all *Scotsmen* born since his accession to the throne of *England*. This was adjudged by Sir *Edward Coke* in the great case of *Calvin*; as it had been argued at large before all the Judges by

Case of the
Post-nati,
Vol. IV.
p. 185.

Sir *Francis Bacon*. The affair is now no longer of importance to either Kingdom: but one assertion of our author, on that occasion, ought not to be forgot. He roundly affirms, that monarchies do not subsist like other governments, by a precedent law; and that submission to them is grounded upon nature.

An. 1610.

IN 1610 he published another treatise, entitled, *Of the Wisdom of the Ancients*. This work bears the same stamp of an original and inventive genius with his other performances. Resolving not to tread in the steps of those who had gone before him, men, according to his own expression, not learned beyond certain common places; he strikes out a new tract for himself, and enters into the most secret recesses of this wild and shadowy region; so as to appear new on a known and beaten subject. Upon the whole, if we cannot bring ourselves readily to believe that there is all the physical, moral, and political meaning veiled

veiled under those fables of antiquity, which he has discovered in them, we must own that it required no common penetration to be mistaken with so great an appearance of probability on his side. Tho it still remains doubtful whether the Ancients were so knowing as he attempts to shew they were, the variety and depth of his own knowledge are, in that very attempt, unquestionable.

HOBART being advanced to the place An. 1613. of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Sir *Francis Bacon* succeeded him as Attorney General in 1613; about three months after the death of his kinsman and enemy the Lord Treasurer *Salisbury*: a minister fertile in expedients for supplying his master's wants, and well acquainted with the temper of *England*: a man of dexterity, craft, and intrigue, rather than a great man. The office that *Bacon* now entered upon was of exorbitant profit for that age. He owns, in one of his letters to the King, that it

was worth to him 6000 *l.* a year: and his employment of Register to the Star-Chamber, which I mentioned above, now brought him in 1600 *l.* a year more. By what fatality was it that so extraordinary a man did not add to his other virtues that of a reasonable oeconomy? Had he done so, it had preserved him from one transcendent fault: and the other blemishes on his moral name had been lost in the brightness of his intellectual qualities. But he was remarkably subject to the same weakness that so much dishonoured his master. His dependants had him wholly in their power, and squandered his fortune away, shamefully and without measure. In a private family, this begot disorder, necessity, corruption: and all *England* beheld, from the same management in administering the public, the same effects; only more felt and fatal, as they were universal.

It

It was not however till the year 1611 that *James* abandoned himself to one sole favourite. About that time was brought to court *Robert Car* a *Scotsman*, then in the first bloom of his youth, and of distinguished beauty; by which he at once engaged the King's attention, and in a little while engrossed all his affection. As he was wholly illiterate, *James* himself would needs be his preceptor: and it must have been a scene altogether new and ridiculous, to see the Sovereign of three kingdoms daily instructing, in the first elements of grammar, the Man who was shortly after to govern those kingdoms. In his bounty to this stripling, he observed no other measure but that of his passion, which was as extreme as it seemed unaccountable. *Car*, in four or five years of favour, from a mere adventurer was raised to be Earl of *Somerset*: and amassed an enormous estate of nineteen thousand pounds a year in land; besides plate, money, and jewels to the amount of two hundred thousand pounds

Truth
brought to
light.
P. 89.

pounds more. And here I cannot omit taking notice, that the foundations of this minion's greatness were laid in the ruin of another subject; of one who deserved, and would have met with very different treatment from a sovereign, to whom eminent public vertues had not been formidable, and therefore hateful. I mean Sir *Walter Raleigh*, then a prisoner in the Tower. Him the King robbed of his lands, by a shameful artifice of the law; to bestow them on *Car*, who, by accepting, shewed how little he merited, this bounty *: and whose name would scarce have found a place in history, had it not been for his vices; for his scandalous amour with the Countess of *Essex*; for procuring her to be divorced

An. 1613.

• When the Lady *Raleigh* and her children on their knees implored the King's compassion, they could get no other answer from him, but that he *mun ha* the land, he *mun ha* it for *Car*. But let it be remembered too, that Prince *Henry*, who had all the amiable qualities his father wanted, never left soliciting him, till he had obtained the manor of *Sherborne*, with an intention to restore it to *Raleigh* its just owner: tho by his untimely death this good intention did not take effect. *Ral. life*, p. 164, 165.

forced from her husband, and for combining with her to poison his friend, who had dissuaded him from that ill step. The fate of Sir *Thomas Overbury*; the dark and dreadful scene of guilt that ushered it in; and the part those two great criminals acted in that tragedy, are recounted by all historians. Tho the horrible transaction lay yet wrapt up in darkness, and was not discovered till two years after, remorse and the upbraidings of conscience pursued *Somerſet* every where. Thro all the splendor of fortune and favour, the trouble of his mind was viſible in his countenance, in his whole deportment. He grew by degrees to neglect his person and dress. His ſprightlineſs of temper left him: and his converſation, from being gay and entertaining, was become cold, ſerious, and gloomy. This alteration in him was quickly followed by a change in the King's affections; which had no deeper or more ſolid foundation than theſe external and ſlight accompliſhments. The Courtiers,

Coke.

Courtiers, whom envy and interest render extremely sharp-sighted, quickly discovered this change, and improved it.

An. 1615.

Luckily for their designs, there now appeared at court another young man, fitted by nature to draw the curiosity of *James*, and to supplant the Earl of *Somerset* in his favour. This was the famous *George Villiers*, the younger son of a good family in *Leicestershire*; afterwards Duke of *Buckingham*. As the surprizing elevation of this youth had a particular influence on the future fortunes, and even on the fall, of Sir *Francis Bacon*, his character will deserve a place at large in this history.

Wilfon,
P. 79.

His mother, who could not give him a fortune, bestowed on him such an education as might enable him to acquire one, especially in a court like this. The advantages he owed to nature, such as a handsome face, a body exactly proportioned, an ease and gracefulness in his motions, she had taken care to improve

prove with that elegance of manners, that artificial politeness, and skill of excellling in trifles, which are the last finishings of a *French* education. In a word, he was just returned from his travels, and accomplished in all those agreeable and frivolous arts, which were a certain recommendation to the favour of *James*. The Earls of *Pembroke* and *Bedford*, with some other Lords who were secret enemies to *Somerset*, after dressing out this youth with a studied exactness, placed him to advantage in the King's eye, at a comedy. That monarch was immediately smitten with his face, air, and appearance; which yet he endeavoured for some time to conceal. Nay he carried this dissimulation so far, that he would needs be solicited by the Queen to receive *Villiers* into his bosom: imagining the world would be thus deceived into a belief that he rather followed her advice, in this matter, than his own inclination. Such was the Kingcraft on which he so highly valued himself.

self. The Queen was not easily prevailed with to take this step; of which she *Rusworth* foresaw all the consequences. At last, *of Abbot,* however, she yielded to the Archbishop's *ch. 1.* importunity; telling him at the same time, that those who laboured most to promote *Villiers* might be the first to feel his ingratitude. Upon this he was immediately knighted, and declared Gentleman of the Bedchamber: the herd of Courtiers rivalling each other in their offers of friendship and service to him. *Weldon,* Some of them even descended to under- *p. 84.* take his quarrels, and brave such as were still in *Somerset's* interest.

AMONG those who courted the rising favourite, none was more zealous than Sir *Francis Bacon*; as none was able to serve him more nobly, or more usefully. *Villiers* had at this time sense enough to feel his inexperience in business, and therefore had recourse to our Author for his advice: which he gave him fully in a letter, still extant among his works;
written

written with so superior a judgment and ^{Bacon,}
so much honest freedom, that it does ^{Vol. III.}
^{p. 564.}

honour equally to his head and heart.

He has ranged his thoughts under seven or eight principal topics of consideration, and entered into an accurate detail of what a minister ought to know and practise.

In another letter to him, he has these remarkable words: "It is now

"time that you should refer your actions

"chiefly to the good of your Sovereign,

"and your Country. It is the life of a

"beast always to eat, and never to exercise.

"In this dedication of your self

"to the public, I recommend to you

"principally that which I think was never

"done since I was born, and which,

"not done, hath bred almost a wilderness

"and solitude in the King's service:

"which is, that you countenance, and

"encourage, and advance able and vir-

"tuous men in all kinds, degrees, and

"professions." This excellent advice

the Favourite received with thankfulness;

and neglected.

THO

An. 1616.

THO the King's passion was now wholly diverted upon a new object, he still affected to treat *Somerſet* with kindness and diſtinction : even after the diſcovery of his being an accomplice in poisoning Sir *Thomas Overbury* had rendered this diſſimulation not only mean but criminal. Yet he continued it to the laſt, embracing with fondneſs the man whom he had ſecretly ordered to be arreſted; and entreating him to haſten his return, when he believed he ſhould never ſee him more. In ſuch trifles he was fond to exert his talent of political management. The Earl's unhappy paſſion for the young Counteſs of *Effex* was the ſource of all his miſfortunes, and drew after it the moſt terrible conſequences : ending, as I have already obſerved, in the murder of his friend; in the ruin of himſelf, and of her to whom he had treacherouſly ſacrificed that friend. The whole affair is diſplayed at full length in our Author's charges againſt thoſe two prime agents in that infernal conſpiracy.

They

Wilson,
p 81.

They were both found guilty, sentenced ^{May 24,} to die, and afterwards pardoned by the ^{25.} King, notwithstanding his solemn im- ^{Statz-Trya.} ^{als, Vol. I.} ^{p. 334,} ^{348.} ^{precations to the contrary, on himself} and his posterity.

CERTAIN historians have remarked, that there was something, in the behaviour of *Somerset* before his tryal, singular and mysterious: and that his master likewise seemed to labour under a secret anxiety of mind, equally surprising. The Earl, they pretend, said aloud in the tower, that the King durst not bring him to a tryal. Others reject this account as a downright calumny, invented merely to fix a black and cruel imputation on that Prince's memory; or affirm at least that it was founded only in popular rumour and malicious conjecture. But that there was more in it than conjecture, may be proved by undoubted authority; by some original letters of Sir *Francis Bacon*, then Attorney-General, and particularly employed in this very affair.

F

Those

Those letters have, I think, escaped the observation of all our writers: I shall therefore quote from them such passages as may serve to throw some light on this dark transaction, tho not enough perhaps to discover the darker motives that influenced the King's and the Earl's behaviour in it.

Bacon,
Vol. IV.
Lett. 133.

JAMES himself selected certain persons to examine *Somerset* with all secrecy, and marked out to them the particular articles on which they were to interrogate him. They had withal orders to work upon his obstinate temper by every method of persuasion and terror: to give him now hopes of the King's compassion and mercy; and now to assure him that the evidence was full to convict him, so as there needed neither confession nor supply of examination. *Bacon,*

Vol. IV.
Lett. 136.

who was one of them, adds that they found his deportment sober and modest, differing apparently from other times. In another letter he has these remarkable words :

words: " That same little charm which
" may be secretly infused into *Somerset's*
" ear some hours before his tryal was
" excellently well thought of by his
" Majesty: only I could wish it a little
" enlarged; for if it be no more but to
" spare his blood, he hath a kind of
" proud humour that may overwork the
" medicine." All this was to be done
with much caution and privacy; for the
very Serjeants, appointed to manage part
of the tryal, were not yet in the secret
how the King would have it carried on:
and therefore *Bacon*, to cover from them
what he knew of the matter, desired that
some general heads of direction might be
sent to them all. From hence it appears
that *James* shewed an extreme solicitude
about the Earl's behaviour, and the event
of this affair. To what can it be attri-
buted? His affection for *Somerset* was
extinguished: and he lay under the strong-
est obligations of public honour and jus-
tice not to screen, from the censure of
the law, a man whose guilt was of the

Letter
135.

most crying enormity. The Earl's standing mute, or denying that guilt, especially as the proofs of it were strong and pregnant, could bring no possible imputation on his name. Why then all this dark practice? all these artifices of the persons who examined him, only to make him submit to be tried, and to keep him in due temper during his tryal? There is still more. *James* ordered his Attorney-General to forecast and put in writing every possible case with regard to the tryal, and accompany them with his own opinion on each; that no surprize might happen, but that things duly foreseen might have their directions and remedies in readiness. Accordingly Sir *Francis Bacon* sent a writing of that purport, on which there are several observations in the King's own hand. I will only quote one passage from it: "All these
" points of mercy and favour to *Somer-*
" *set* are to be understood with this li-
" mitation; if he do not, by his con-
" temptuous and insolent carriage at
" the

“ the Bar, make himself incapable and
“ unworthy of them.” The King’s re-
mark in the margin is in these words ;
“ That danger is well to be foreseen,
“ lest he upon the one part commit un-
“ pardonable errors; and I on the other
“ part seem to punish him in the spirit
“ of revenge.” *Somerset* was not to be
tried for any offence against the King ;
but for the barbarous murder of a pri-
vate man and his friend. What then
means the contemptuous carriage that is
so much apprehended? What are the
unpardonable errors it may lead him to
commit? If he reflected on a master, to
whom he had been so much obliged,
only for giving him up to a fair and equal
tryal, to a tryal by many circumstances
rendered inevitable; that would, in the
opinion of all mankind, only aggravate
his crime, and furnish a new motive to
that master for letting the sentence of
justice pass upon him in all its rigor.
After these particulars, I may venture to
mention a fact related by Sir *Anthony*

Court of
K. James
1. p. 106.

Weldon, who says that when the lieutenant of the Tower, Sir *George More*, came and told the Earl, he must prepare for his tryal on the morrow, he absolutely refused to appear unless they dragged him to it by violence; adding, that the King durst not bring him to tryal. Astonished at such rash and dangerous expressions, the Lieutenant, tho it was then midnight, went and demanded an audience of the King, to inform him of what had passed. *James*, upon hearing his story, burst into a passion of tears, and intreated *More* to use his utmost skill upon his prisoner and soothe him, by whatever means, into proper temper and submission. This *More* undertook to do, and by a stratagem effected it. *Weldon* affirms he had this story from the Lieutenant's own mouth: and tho he is a partial writer, and indulges himself in a humour of licentious scandal, the authentic vouchers I have produced render his anecdote not improbable. Other circumstances, mentioned by those
who

who have professedly written of this reign, I therefore omit : and shall only add, that there is in the Cabala a letter to King *James*, from *Somerset* after his condemnation, of a very peculiar turn. Cabala, p. 204. Edit. 1691. He desires that his estate may be continued to him intire, in a stile rather of expostulation and demand than of humility and supplication : and thro the affected obscurity of some expressions, one may discover, that there was an important secret in his keeping, of which the King dreaded a discovery. The issue was, that *James* continued to him a pension of four thousand pounds a year, as long as he lived.

PRINCE *Henry* died in the year 1612, universally lamented. His excellent qualities had endeared him to the love and expectations of all *England*. *Germanicus* was not more the darling of the *Roman* people : and the untimely death of both those Princes was universally believed to have been procured

by poison. He had expressed, on all occasions, an abhorrence of minions, and an utter contempt of *Somerſet*: he had even declared a firm reſolution, to humble both him and the family into which he was allied, if ever he came to reign. Whether the unaccountable tranſaction I have been relating has any reference to the death of this amiable Prince, or whether it does not point rather to an affair of a very different nature, the reader is left to determine.

VILLIERS, now without a rival in the King's affections, was every day receiving new proofs of his bounty; at the ſame time that he more than ſhared with him the exerciſe of his authority. In the courſe of a few years he was made Gentleman of the Bed-chamber, Maſter of the Horſe, Knight of the Garter, Earl, Marquis and Duke of *Buckingham*, Chief Juſtice in Eyre of all the Foreſts, and Lord High Admiral of *England*. One of thoſe prodigies of fortune, who
riſe

rise now and then upon the world, as the vulgar imagine of comets, at once to astonish and scourge it: a signal instance of the wantonness of sovereign power, and how far it may insult human kind in exalting and adorning what it should neglect or condemn. He drew up after him an obscure kindred, numerous and indigent, bestowed on them places of trust and profit, married them into the noblest families, and graced them all with dignities, which were to be supported at the common expence of a whole people; to whom if any one of them was merely harmless, it was his utmost praise. After having read, not only what the enemies of this favourite have said against him, but all that his partizans have alledged on his behalf, I do not find, during the whole time of his influence under two reigns, an influence supreme and unbounded, that he ever projected one scheme for the benefit of his country, or ever executed one undertaking to its honour: the only great
Criterion

Criterion by which we ought to judge those men that administer the public. The breaking off the *Spanish* match at last was solely a sacrifice to his own vanity and resentment. On the caprice of this youth, however, the first and ablest men in the kingdom were to depend entirely, for their access at court, for their advancement, for any opportunity of being able to serve their country and their Sovereign. Sir *Francis Bacon* was sensible of this, and courted his friendship with a particular application. But he must have felt all the servitude and disagreeableness of his situation, when, to be well with the King, he found it necessary to turn Steward to the estate newly bestowed on this young man; to study the ways and means of improving his lands, and of rendering his places most profitable to him. It is true he found his account in this service; as it proved the surest means of his own preferment: but, to a great and worthy mind, preferment so meanly obtained is disgrace,

Bacon,
Vol. IV.
Letter
163.

disgrace, only a little disguised and gilded over.

THE Lord Chancellor *Egerton*, bro-^{*Cabala*}ken with age and infirmities, had often^{P. 219.} petitioned the King to be dismissed from his laborious employment. He was now seventy seven years old, and had presided in the court of Chancery from the year 1596, with an unblemished reputation as a judge in private cases: but his public conduct had been always framed to the directions of the court with an obsequiousness, of dangerous example in one, who held so great and important a trust. To this high dignity Sir *Francis Bacon* privately aspired: and as it was the utmost scope of his ambition, he had aimed all his endeavours in the King's service to merit it at his hands. He took care, at the same time, to strengthen his pretensions by the credit of *Buckingham*. His ambition even made him descend to artifices, that are as common in courts, as they are mean and unwarrantable;

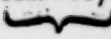
rantable. He endeavoured to ruin in the King's good opinion such men as the voice of the public might probably design to the same office, and whom he therefore considered as his rivals. He was particularly jealous of Sir *Edward Coke*, and represented him as one who abounded in his own sense; one who affected popularity, and likely to court the good will of the nation at the hazard of the prerogative. For himself, he placed his great merit in obedience and submission; in the interest he had among the *Commons*, and in being able to influence the lower House of Parliament: a service which he magnifies as more important in a Chancellor, than to judge in equity between party and party. This opinion of his own popularity in the nation was not groundless. The Parliament that met in 1614, tho extremely out of humour with the ministers in general, distinguished him by an uncommon mark of favour and confidence. An objection having been started

Vol. IV.
Lett. 124.

Peterson's Pla-
cita Par-
liam. p.
274.

started in the house of Commons, that a seat there was incompatible with the office of Attorney-General, which required his frequent attendance in the upper house: the Commons, from their particular regard for Sir *Francis Bacon*, and for that time only, over-ruled the objection; and he was accordingly allowed to take his place among them. If I observe further, that the King raised him to the dignity of a Privy Counsellor while he was still in this very office, it will be instead of many instances to shew, with what an addressful prudence he steered his course betwixt the court and the nation. He was thus favoured by a Prince, who exacted from all his servants an implicit submission to his maxims of government: He gave no umbrage to a parliament whom these maxims had rendered jealous of the Prince, and of almost every man in his favour. But to return.

THESE

An. 1617.  THESE insinuations had their desired effect. Upon the Chancellor's voluntary resignation of the seals, they were given to Sir *Francis Bacon*, with the title of Lord Keeper, on the seventh of *March* 1617. To what interest he more particularly owed this promotion we may learn from his letter of acknowledgment, written that very day, to the Earl of *Buckingham*.

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166.

A FEW days after he had the seals delivered to him, the King went a progress into *Scotland*, carrying with him the Favourite, who was likewise his prime Minister: for to him all business, public or private, was addressed; and according to his fancy, for the most part determined. The great affair that employed the deliberations of his counsel about this time, and had a fatal influence on his conduct ever after, was the marriage of Prince *Charles* with the Infanta of *Spain*. In this resolution, tho contrary to all the rules of good policy, he persisted

persisted for seven years together; against his own interest, against the universal voice of his people: only to procure the imaginary honour of an alliance with a crowned head; for all other alliances he thought below his dignity. Sir

Francis Bacon who saw thro the vanity Bacon,
Vol. IV.
Lett. 172. and danger of this intention, but who

wanted resolution to be greatly honest, contented himself with insinuating softly, that it would be necessary to have the council unanimous in their suffrage on the occasion, whatever might be their private sentiments. This hint was not sufficient to open the King's eyes. On the contrary, he run blindfold into the snare that *Gundamor* was spreading for him. That famous Statesman, as much by his buffooneries as by his talent for intrigue, had gained an absolute ascendant over *James*, leading him on from error to error: till in the end he made him sacrifice his conscience to the Pope, and his honour to the resentments of *Philip*, in the murder of his bravest subject

ject Sir *Walter Raleigh*; the last terror of *Spain*, and the only surviving favourite of Queen *Elizabeth*. The *Dutch* too made advantage of the King's weakness and necessities. As the cautionary towns were still in the hands of the *English*, the States were under some apprehensions that the *Spanish* Ministry might prevail upon *James*, who could not possibly conceal his fondness for the match in treaty, to put those important places into their power. They knew at the same time that his treasury was exhausted, and that his courtiers were insatiable. To bring their purpose about, they ceased all at once to pay the *English* who garrisoned those places, as by their treaties they were obliged to do. Complaint being made of this to the *Dutch* Envoy at *London*, he insinuated, as from himself, to some of the Ministers, that if King *James* would desire it of the States; they, out of consideration for him, would take up money at exorbitant interest, and in one payment discharge the whole

whole debt due to the crown of *England*. This stratagem took effect. *James* wrote to the States: and the matter was immediately put into negotiation. The pensionary *Barneveldt*, whom they sent over, conducted the affair with so much address, that the King agreed to deliver up the cautionary towns for less than three millions of florins; in lieu of eight millions they had engaged to pay *Elizabeth*, besides the interest that had been running on for eighteen years. Such are the events of this reign; fit only to depress the writer, and distaste the reader.

DURING the King's absence in *Scotland* there happened an affair, otherwise of small importance but as it lets us into the true genius of those times, and serves to shew in what miserable subjection the Favourite held all those who were in public employments. He was upon the point of ruining Sir *Francis Bacon*, the person he had just contributed to raise; not for any error or negli-

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Life of
ABp *Wil-*
liams, part
2. p. 19.

gence in their Master's service, but merely for an opinion given in a thing that only regarded his own family. Indeed such was the levity, such the insolence of his power, that the capricious removal of men from their places became the prime distinction of his thirteen years favour: which, as Bishop *Hacket* observes, was like a sweeping flood, that at every spring-tide takes from one land, to cast what it has taken upon another. The affair was this. The year before, my Lord *Coke* had been removed from his place of Chief-Justice and disgraced: The Court having found him, in several instances, no friend to arbitrary will and pleasure, or to the prerogative, as it was called; but resolutely bent to maintain the integrity and honour of his post. One *Peacham* had been accused of inserting in a sermon several passages accounted treasonable, for it seems they reflected on the ministry; but in a sermon never preached, nor ever intended to be made public. The King, who was beyond

yond measure jealous on this head, fearing the man might either be acquitted on his tryal, or not condemned to a capital punishment, had ordered his Attorney-General *Bacon* to sound the Judges before-hand, and gather their opinions, secretly and apart. My Lord *Coke* obstinately refused to declare his; looking on this auricular taking of opinions, for so he named it, as not according to the customs of the realm, but new and of pernicious tendency. About the same time he had determined a cause at common law. The plaintiff, who thought himself injured, would not abide by his decision, but applied to Chancery for relief: where the defendant refused to appear, disclaiming the authority of that court; in which he was supported by the Chief-Justice, who threatened the Chancellor with a premunire, grounded on a statute made 27th *Ed.* III. for thus invading the limits of his jurisdiction. The King, who thought his prerogative struck at anew in this attack on

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Bacon,
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125, 142.

Letter
142, 145.

the court of his absolute power, as *Bacon* styles it, had the matter examined before the Council: who condemned the Chief-Justice for what he had done, and obliged him to make a submission on his knees. But what compleated the distaste taken at him, was his behaviour in a cause of the Bishop of *Litchfield* and *Coventry*, to whom the King had granted a vacant church *in Commendam*. Serjeant *Chiborne*, who was council against the Bishop, in arguing the case had maintained several positions, reckoned prejudicial and derogatory to the King's supreme and imperial power, which was affirmed to be distinct from, and of a higher nature than his ordinary authority. Informed of this, *James*, by his Attorney General *Bacon*, ordered the Judges to stay further proceedings in that business, till they had consulted with him. The Judges assembled, and unanimously agreed, that they could not obey this order; that the letter they had received was contrary to law; that, by their oath and
the

the duty of their places, they were not to delay Justice; that they had therefore proceeded in the cause at the time fixed: and of this they certified the King in a writing under all their hands. Upon this remonstrance, he writ them an angry letter, and peremptorily commanded them to stay all proceedings, till his return to *London*. They were then summoned before the Council, and sharply reprimanded for suffering the popular lawyers to question his prerogative; which was represented as sacred and transcendent, not to be handled or mentioned in vulgar argument. At last raising his voice, to frighten them into submission, he put this question to them severally: "if, at any time, in a case depending before the Judges, he conceived it to concern him either in profit or power, and thereupon required to consult with them, and that they should stay proceedings in the meantime; whether they ought not to stay them accordingly?" They all, the

Bacon,
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145.

Chief Justice only excepted, acknowledged it their duty to do so. His answer deserves to be for ever remembred: "That when such a case happened, he would do that which should be fit for a Judge to do."

Letter
177, 178.

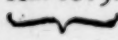
YET this great Lawyer, who had the honest courage to resist the King to his face, wanted that independance of mind which alone enables a man to bear solitude, and an acquaintance with himself. His disgrace, which reflected more honour on him than all his preferments, he knew not how to support: and therefore soon after sued to be reinstated in the King's favour. To recover it, he meanly enough courted the Favourite with an offer, which he would not hear of when it was formerly made to him. While in power, he had refused to give his daughter in marriage to Sir *John Villiers*, not without marks of disrespect. He now submissively entreated the same person to honour him with his alliance: and

and employed Secretary *Winwood* to inform the Earl of *Buckingham* of his extreme concern for what had passed with regard to the Earl's brother; that he now passionately wished the treaty might be renewed and accomplished: adding that they should make their own terms of settlement, if his proposal was accepted. As the young lady was not only a celebrated beauty, but a great fortune, the person most interested made no difficulty to close with this proposal: and his mother recommended it to her second son with warmth. This alarmed the Lord-Keeper *Bacon*. Ever jealous of *Coke's* reputation, and at odds with him, he dreaded his alliance with so powerful a family. His imagination suggested to him all the danger that threatened his present and future fortunes from this union: and he could not forget that he had lately treated his antagonist with a freedom that rather insulted Letter 139. to L. Coke. than admonished him. These apprehensions made him cast about how to

defeat the intended match, by raising such objections to it as might touch the King and his Favourite in point of public honour and advantage. His letters to both, on that occasion, are written with the perplexity of a man who fears something he is unwilling to own; which yet his prudence passes over with a seeming unconcern, to enlarge only upon considerations that regard those whom he would be thought to serve. But this management proved ineffectual. It was resented by the Earl of *Buckingham*, and checked by a rough answer from the King. The Lady *Compton* too, informed of the part he was acting, gave a loose to her tongue, and railed at him with a bitterness natural to women when they are thwarted in any favourite pursuit of interest or passion. Having thus, to prevent a distant and uncertain danger, involved himself in one that was real and immediate, he made no scruple to change sides at once: to go directly against his former opinion; and to offer
unasked

unmasked his interest in the young Lady's ^{Letter 181.} Mother for promoting the match, he had just been labouring to disappoint. On such trivial accidents do the fortunes of ministers depend: and to such little and shameful arts is ambition often obliged to stoop. Nor even thus did he presently regain his credit with *Buckingham*. The family continued to load him with reproaches: and he remained long under that agony of heart which an aspiring man must feel, when his power and dignity are at the mercy of a King's minion, young, and giddy with his elevation, and who thinks himself offended. They were however reconciled at last; and their friendship, if obsequiousness in one to all the humours of the other deserves the name of friendship, continued without interruption for some years: while *Buckingham* went on daily to place and displace the great officers of the Crown, as wantonness of fancy, or anger, or interest led him; to recommend or discountenance every private person who
had

had a suit depending in any court, just as he was influenced; to authorize and protect every illegal project, that could serve most speedily to enrich himself or his kindred. In a word, he became formidable even to the master who had raised him from the dust, and who should have still awed him by his authority: and this amidst the dissipation of a life, given up to idle amusements, or sullyed with criminal pleasures.

An. 1619.  IN the beginning of 1619, Sir *Francis Bacon* was created Lord High Chancellor of *England*, and shortly after Baron of *Verulam*; which title he exchanged, the year following, for that of Viscount *St. Alban*. Such events in his life as these may be passed over slightly: he was so great a man, that external honours could add no lustre to his name. Indeed had they been the immediate reward of those nobler services he had done, and was still meditating to do his country, they might deserve more particular notice, for the sake of *Him* who bestowed them.

NEITHER

NEITHER the weight and variety of business, nor the pomps of a Court, could divert his attention from the study of philosophy. Those were his avocations and encumbrances: this was his beloved employment, and almost the only pleasure in which he indulged his freer and better hours. He gave to the public in 1620 his *Novum Organon*, as An. 1620. a second part to his grand Instauration of the Sciences: a work that for twelve years together he had been methodizing, altering, polishing; till he had laboured the whole into a series of aphorisms, as it now appears. Of all his writings this seems to have undergone the strictest revision, and to be finished with the severest judgment. Indeed the form into which it is cast admits of nothing foreign, of nothing merely ornamental. The lights and embellishments of imagination, the grace and harmony of stile, are rejected here, as beauties either superfluous, or of an inferior nature. The Author has besides made use of several terms in a new and peculiar

peculiar sense, which may have discouraged some readers, as it has made others imagine them equally unintelligible with the horrors of a vacuum, the quiddities, and substantial forms, of the philosophy which he attempted to discredit: and therefore, of all his writings it has been the least read, or understood. It was intended as a more useful, a more extensive Logic than the world had yet been acquainted with. An art not conversant about syllogisms, and modes of argumentation, that may be serviceable sometimes in arranging truths already known, or in detecting fallacies that lie concealed among our own reasonings and those of other men: but an art inventive of arts; productive of new discoveries, real, important, and of general use to human life. This he proposed, by turning our attention from notions to things; from those subtle and frivolous speculations that dazzle, not enlighten, the understanding, to a sober and sensible investigation of the laws and powers of nature, in a way becoming
sages

sages who make truth and information the sole aim of their enquiries. In order to this, his first endeavour was to weed out of the mind such errors as naturally grow in it, or have been planted there by education, and cherished by the influence of men whose writings had long claimed a right of prescription to rule and mislead mankind. To a mind thus prepared for instruction, he proposes the second and scientific part of his scheme, the true method of interpreting nature, by fact and observation; by sound and genuine *Induction*, widely differing from that puerile art which till then had solely prevailed in philosophy. His requires a sufficient, an accurate collection of instances, gathered with sagacity and recorded with impartial plainness, on both sides of the question: from which, after viewing them in all possible lights, to be sure that no contradictory instances can be brought, some portion of useful truth, leading on to further discoveries, may be at last fairly deduced. In this way,

way, experiments and reasonings grow up together, to support and illustrate each other mutually, in every part of science.

An. 1621.

As we are now approaching towards the most memorable event of our Author's public life, which ended in a melancholy reverse of his fortune and honour, it will be necessary to trace, step by step, the causes that produced it: especially as the affair has not been hitherto considered in the point of view that renders it most interesting and instructive. It will, I believe, appear with evidence, that, whatever his crimes might be, he was sacrificed to the safety of another, far more criminal than himself: and that this was the act of an ill-judging master, with whom it was a greater merit to be amusing in any degree, than to be serviceable in the greatest.

AMONG the weaknesses of King *James*, his vanity was the most pernicious, to his own family, and to the nation

nation in general. He placed an infinite value on certain chimerical advantages that met in his person ; on that inherent right by which he pretended the crown of *England* was devolved to him ; on his long acquaintance with the prime mysteries of government, and on his uncommon accomplishments in learning. His favourite maxim was, that he who knows not how to dissemble, knows not how to reign : but he seems not to have heard of a second maxim, without which the first cannot be successful, even for a time ; to conceal every appearance of cunning, and to deceive under the guise of candor and good faith. He, on the contrary, shewed his whole game at once, to his own subjects and to foreigners alike : so that in his attempts upon the former, in his negociations with the latter, this *Solomon* was the only dupe. A great share of learning he certainly had, but of learning that a King ought not to be acquainted with ; the very refuse of the schools, which served for little

tle else but to furnish him with an impertinent fluency, on every subject: and he indulged himself in the sovereign pedantry of setting it to shew, on every occasion. On all these heads, he was extolled without measure by the most pestilent of flatterers, grave and reverend Ecclesiastics: for which, and because they encouraged him in an unprincely application of his talent, he, on many occasions, made his power the mean instrument to gratify their passions and lust of dominion. They, in return, found out for him a title antecedent and superior to human laws, even a divine right of being weak or wicked, without controul. And this doctrine, horrible as it is, they dared to derive from scripture: where if it could be found, which to affirm were blasphemy, it would be the triumph of infidelity, and demonstration that those sacred writings were inspired, not by God, but by some Being, his opposite and the enemy of all goodness. This doctrine, meeting with
his

his own perverted habits of thinking, made King *James* look upon his subjects as slaves; upon his parliaments as usurpers of a power to which they had no right, or at best a precarious one: and he had now, for seven years together, affected to govern without them; to set up an interest separate from that of his people, and to supply his wants by all ways and means, but such as the constitution prescribed. These methods *Hacket;* were suggested to him by the worst ene-
P. 56.
mies of the commonwealth, the tribe of projectors and monopolists: miscreants who sheltered themselves under the name and influence of *Buckingham*, and who repaid his protection extravagantly, at the expence of a people whom they were grinding and devouring. His mother too, now created a Countess in her own right, a woman born for mischief, of a meddling spirit and insatiably greedy, was deep in the guilt of these transactions; forwarding every bad project that brought her in money; and,

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by

by the mighty power she had over her son, succeeding in every scandalous job she undertook. Under an administration like this, when *England* was in effect governed by a dissolute youth, himself in the hands of an intriguing, rapacious woman, it cannot be surprizing that the people were vexed and plundered by illegal patents, by monopolies, by other mischievous projects, calculated to enrich a few, and to ruin thousands. To all these patents, however procured, the Chancellor had readily, almost implicitly, affixed the seal, as the mere creature of *Buckingham*. Or if he ever ventured to insinuate that any of them were contrary to law, his remonstrance was too fearful and unsupported to produce any effect. This is the great stain on his character; that he deserted, or neglected, the post of honour where providence had placed him, on the frontier, if I may so speak, betwixt Prerogative and Liberty: that, if he did not encourage, he at least connived at, the invasions that were every day making into the latter. Yet
this

this was against his inclination, as well as against his better sense of things: for as he knew well that his Master's true interest lay in a good understanding with his people, he had often advised him to call frequent parliaments, and to throw himself on the affections of the nation for the support of his government. Tho such advice was repugnant to all the maxims by which that monarch wished to establish his power; tho he had resolved to lay parliaments aside for ever, as daring encroachers upon his prerogative, who made themselves greater and their prince less than became either: yet he was now prevailed upon, to meet the two houses once more. Indeed the exigency of his affairs rendered it necessary. His subjects, it is true, were harassed and pillaged; but he was still in extreme want of money: those wretches, to whom he delegated his authority, leaving to him little else besides the public hatred, occasioned by their rapines committed in his name. Add to this, that

the juncture appeared favourable for obtaining large supplies from the commons. As the whole body of the nation expressed an uncommon zeal for recovering the Palatinate to his unfortunate Son-in-law, he had reason to expect, that on the assurance of his entering heartily into a war, they would vote him considerable aids of money; which he might afterwards divert, as he actually did, to other purposes that better suited his genius and notions.

A PARLIAMENT was accordingly summoned: and it met on the 20th of *January*, 1621. The King was not wholly mistaken in his conjecture; for the Commons immediately voted him two entire subsidies: but went at the same time upon a strict enquiry into those arbitrary impositions that, in a period of seven years, were become insupportable to the people. Among the monopolies, in particular, there were three of flagrant injustice and oppression.

Certain

Certain persons had obtained patents from the King, which empowered them to set an annual fine on such as kept inns, or alehouses, throughout *England*. Without a licence from the patentees, no man could hold either: and whoever would not readily pay the sum, at which those low instruments of power thought fit to excise him, was sure of being harassed and plundered, or thrown into a jail. This proved a fruitful source of vexations, and fell heavy on the poorer sort. The third was yet more enormous; a patent for the sole making and vending of gold and silver lace, which had been granted to two infamous tools of the favourite, *Mompesson* and *Michel*; the *Dudley* and *Empson* of that age. The first a man of fortune; whose sole ambition was to make himself considered, tho but by his crimes: the other an obscure Justice of the peace, who, in a remote quarter of the town, picked up a sordid maintenance from the stews. They had, it seems, shamefully abused

the power their exclusive patent gave them, by putting off, for true, great quantities of counterfeit lace, wrought up and embased with copper, or other materials of a poisonous nature: and whoever presumed to make or sell any other was cruelly punished, by fine and imprisonment. In these outrages they were the more daring, because Sir *Edward Villiers*, half-brother to the Favourite, was associated into their patent, tho not named in it. These, with many other grievances, were laid open in parliament, and severely censured. But the Commons did not stop here. They were for carrying their search up to the prime cause of all grievances, in order to discover by whose influence the several patents had been procured, and how they had passed the seals. Complaints were brought into the house, about the same time, of corrupt practices even in the High Court of Equity. This alarmed the King for his Chancellor, and still more for his Minion; as private intimations

mations had been sent to *Buckingham*, of a severe scrutiny that was making into all his management, and of frequent meetings that were held, with great secrecy, by certain members of the lower house; in order to fix on him the guilt of whatever was most unjustifiable and oppressive. *Buckingham's* creatures, anxious and alarmed at this intelligence, persuaded him, that he could secure impunity to himself and them, only by bringing his Master forthwith to dissolve the parliament: and *James* had certainly been frightened into that rash and hazardous step, but for the sober remonstrances of *Williams* Dean of *Westminster*. That politic courtier advised him to cancel at once, by proclamation, all monopolies and vexatious grants; to sacrifice inferior criminals to the public resentment: and to soothe the parliament with an assurance that this reformation was first proposed by his favourite, on finding how much he had been abused by designing and knavish projec-

Cabala,
Letter 2.

Russell's
Abridg.
Post. p. 2,
3.

tors. This counsel the King resolved to follow: but it did not wholly free him from the perplexity he was under. The Chancellor, whom his interest led him to preserve, was openly accused of corruption: the Favourite, whom his tenderness could not resign, was secretly, and therefore more dangerously attacked; as the encourager, if not the author, of whatever was deemed most illegal and oppressive. To save both, at this juncture, would be impossible: and he found he must either part with the Object of his inclinations, or with the Oracle of his counsels. How such a prince would determine, is easy to guess. His passion prevailed over his reason: and my Lord *St. Alban* was made the scape-goat of *Buckingham*. He was even obliged to abandon his defence. As he had gained universal esteem by his learning; and as his eloquence was equal to his parts, superior and commanding, the King would not hazard his appearing before the Lords to plead his

his own cause. In the course of such an enquiry, he might have diverted the public odium from himself, by laying open the long series of bad administration to which he had been privy; the many illegal patents he had been compelled to pass: and all this came full home to *Buckingham*, the great object of national vengeance. The faults too, imputed to himself, he might have extenuated so far as to procure a great mitigation of the censure, that must otherwise fall upon him in its utmost rigour. All this he foresaw and felt; but the King absolutely commanded him not to be present at his trial: promising, on his royal word, to screen him in the last determination; or if that could not be, to reward him afterwards with ample retribution of protection and favour. He obeyed, and was undone.

ON the twelfth of *March*, a committee for inspecting into the abuses of the courts of Justice was appointed by the

State Try-
als, Vol. I.
p. 353,
Sec.
the

the Commons. Some days after, Sir *Robert Philips*, a gentleman eminent for public spirit and humanity, reported from thence to the house, that complaints had been brought before them, by two persons, against the Lord Chancellor, for bribery and corruption. This report he made, not only without bitterness, but in terms of great regard and tenderness for the Accused; moving that the business might be presented to the Peers, singly and without exaggeration. At a conference, on the nineteenth, between certain members of both houses, the Lords agreed to take the matter into their speedy consideration. As soon as this affair was become the public talk, a new croud of accusers appeared, and charged home the unhappy Chancellor with other and flagrant instances of bribery; such persons especially as had courted him with presents, and afterwards received a verdict unfavourable to their expectations: animated more by that disappointment, than by the

the

the iniquity of his decisions; for it does ^{Rush-}
not appear that any of his decrees were ^{worth's} Coll. V.1.
ever reversed. He was all this while
confined to his house by an indisposi-
tion, real or pretended: but, if his
body was in health, what must have
been the condition of his mind, in this
interval of suspense and anxiety? a great
mind, already self-convicted, yet exquisi-
tely sensible to good fame, which it has
long enjoyed, and is upon the point of
losing for ever. His reflections, whether
he looked back on the past, or forward
to the prospect before him, must have
been terrible: as they were at the same
time inflamed by peculiar circumstances
of shame and confusion; that he was
now, at the age of sixty-one, falling a
victim to the rapine and insolence of his
domestics, which he had weakly con-
nived at, rather than to any faults of his
own.

ON the twenty-sixth of *March*, the
King came to the house of Peers; and,
in

in expressions of studied popularity, owned the errors of his government, exclaimed against the patents complained of, frankly gave up to justice the lesser criminals concerned in them: and all this for the sake of his Favourite, whom in the end he endeavoured to screen by the poorest reasons imaginable. Indeed, no good reasons could be alledged in defence of Him, who was the greatest criminal; and without whose concurrence the Wretches in question could not have been guilty. The Lords were not imposed upon by this speech: however, thinking it sufficient to have reduced their sovereign to the necessity of an apology, they feigned to be of his opinion. Thus, *Buckingham* escaped for the present; to accumulate new guilt, and to fall at last, ignobly, by a private hand: after he had been devoted, by the curses of a whole people, and more solemnly still by the denunciations of their representatives. After a recess of three weeks, the house met again: but the weight

weight of their indignation fell singly, and therefore without mercy, on the Chancellor. They were not satisfied with his letter of general confession, tho delivered to them by the Prince of *Wales*; in which he renounced all justification of himself, and sued for no other favour, “ but that his penitent submission might “ be his sentence, and the loss of the “ seals his punishment.” He was obliged to put in a particular answer to every point of his accusation: which he did on the first of *May*, 1621; acknowledging, in the most explicate words, the corruption charged upon him in twenty eight several articles, and throwing his cause entirely on the compassion of his Judges. His sentence was, “ to undergo a fine of forty thousand pounds; “ to be imprisoned in the Tower during “ the King’s pleasure; to be for ever incapable of any office, place, or employment in the commonwealth; and “ never to sit again in parliament, or “ come within the verge of the court.”

Thus

Thus he lost the great privilege of his peerage; a severity unusual except in cases of treason and attainder.

*Wilson.
Bushel's
Abridg.
Post. p. 2.*

THE last article of his charge furnishes matter for much reflection. It alledges, "that he had given way to great exactions in his servants, both in respect of private seals, and otherwise for sealing injunctions." This indulgence to his domestics, which was certainly extreme, has been generally, and I believe truly, reckoned the principal cause of those irregularities that drew on his disgrace. Liberal in his own temper, or rather profuse beyond the condition of a man who means to preserve his integrity, he allowed his family in every kind of extravagance: and as many of his retinue were young, dissipated, giddy in the pursuit of pleasure, they squandered without measure, where they were indulged without controul *. Whether he

* One day, during his tryal, as he was passing thro a room where several of his domestics were sitting;

he did not discover this error till it was too late, or whether a soul like his, lost in the greatness and immensity of its own views, could not attend to that detail of little and disagreeable particulars which yet oeconomy requires; however that was, to support his ordinary train of living, he fell into corruption himself, and connived at it in his dependents. Thus we behold him, a memorable example of all that is great and exalted, of all that is little and low, in man. Such inconsistencies in our human nature cannot but alarm and terrify even those who are most confirmed in a habit of virtue.

AFTER a short confinement in the Tower, the King restored him to his liberty, and forgave the fine in which the Parliament had amerced him. As this fine was very considerable, he managed so as to have it assigned over to
some

sitting; upon their getting up to salute him, Sit down my Masters, he cried; your rise hath been my fall.

Cabala,
p. 263. Ed.
I. 1691.

some of his friends, under the notion of being his creditors: And we find *Williams*, his successor in the seals, complaining heavily of this stratagem; as if he thereby intended to defraud those persons to whom he was really in debt, who were many and in danger of being ruined by his fall. But I am inclined to hope, that he made use of this artifice with a more innocent view; namely, to procure himself a short respite from their importunity, till he could settle his private affairs, extremely perplexed by former ill management, and now by the loss of his employments rendered desperate. That I may not be obliged to mention any more an affair, alike ungrateful to the reader and writer, I will observe here, that about three years after this, he petitioned King *James* for a total remission of his censure: “ to the
“ end that this blot of ignominy might
“ be removed from him, and from his
“ memory with posterity.” What lay in a King’s power, *James* readily granted,

Bacon
Vol. IV.
Letter
291.

Cabala,
p. 249.

a full and entire pardon of his whole sentence *. Posterity likewise, to which he appealed, has seemed unwilling to remember that he ever offended: and those who record his failings, like those who have made observations on the spots in the sun, neither pretend to diminish his real brightness in himself, nor deny his universal influence on the world of learning. Thus he withdrew from the glare of a public station into the shade of retirement and studious leisure; often lamenting, that ambition and false glory had so long diverted him from the noblest as well as the most useful employments of a reasonable being: mortified, no doubt, into these sentiments by a severe conviction, in his own person, of the instability and emptiness of all human grandeur.

*Busbet's
Abridg.
Post. p. 3.*

HITHERTO, we have followed him thro the bustle and obliquity of business:

I

We

* Accordingly he was summoned to the first Parliament of King Charles.

We shall find him henceforth in a more pleasing, tho a less conspicuous, situation: freed from the servitude of a court; from an intolerable attendance there, on the vices and follies of men every way his inferiors, (for in this reign no one could rise to power on more honourable terms:) in a condition now to pursue the native bent of his genius; to live to himself, and for the advantage, not of one age, or one people only, but of all mankind, and all times to come.

An. 1622:

THE first considerable work he engaged in, after his retirement, was the history of *Henry VII.* which he undertook at the desire of King *James*, and published in the year 1622. Whatever some writers may have insinuated of his melancholy and dejection, we find every where, in this performance, evident traces of a spirit unbroken by age, and unsubdued by misfortunes. It has been highly applauded, and as much condemned: a proof that it has more than common

common merit. And we may venture to affirm that whatever its faults are, they arise from no want of vigour in the understanding, or of warmth in the imagination, of the writer. King *James* affected to consider his great grandfather *Henry* as a perfect model for the imitation of other Monarchs: and as his was the reign of flattery, this quickly grew to be the prevalent and fashionable opinion at Court. Tho' in truth, that Prince's character was, in every part of it, unamiable; and his conduct, on many occasions, weak or wicked. If my Lord *Bacon* has not wholly escaped the infection of his age; if he has here and there attempted to brighten the imperfections, and throw in shades the bad features of the original he was drawing; yet, thro' these softenings, we can easily see this King as he was, and in all his genuine deformity. Suspicion and avarice, his own historian acknowledges, were the chief ingredients in his composition: and therefore his politics, both at home and

Bacon,
Vol. III.
p. 400.

p. 404.

abroad, were narrow, selfish, and false. Void of all great and extensive prudence, he endeavoured to supply that want by temporary shifts, and the little expedients of cunning. By these he commonly had the luck to extricate himself out of difficulties, which a wiser man would have timely foreseen, and a better man have wholly prevented. But as his genius was unsociable and solitary, the darkness in his temper passed on mankind for depth and sagacity in his understanding. His avarice too was sordid and shameless. Nothing seemed mean, nothing unjust in his eyes, that could fill his coffers: and merely to fill them, for of wealth he had no enjoyment, he descended to arts of rapine no less scandalous than they were oppressive.

I HAVE acknowledged that my Lord *Bacon's* History has been taxed of partiality, and I will not dissemble that his style has been objected to, as full of affectation, full of false eloquence. But
that

that was the vice, not of the man, but of the times he lived in: and particularly of a court that, after the Sovereign's example, delighted in the tinsel of wit and writing, in the poor ingenuity of punning and quibbling.

HIS Essays have, of all his works, been most current, and are still very justly esteemed. Towards the close of his life he greatly enlarged them both in number and weight; and published them anew, not only in *English*, but in a more universal language, which, he imagined, may preserve them as long as books shall last. As they are intended not to amuse but instruct; as they are neither a satire on human nature, nor the school of scepticism; Monsieur de *Voltaire* observes, that they have been less popular than the *Maxims* of *Roche-foucault*, or the *Essays* of *Montagne*. A remark that does my Lord *Bacon* honour; who was too great a Man to court a reputation from the multitude, by sa-

Lettres sur
les An-
glois, p.
88.

crificing to that malignity, or indulging that curious extravagance, which too many readers, I am afraid, expect to find gratified, even in writings of a moral kind.

OF the other works which he composed in this last scene of his life, I forbear to make any mention here: they will be all enumerated in another place. Let me only observe, that nothing can give a more exalted idea of the fruitfulness and vigour of his genius than the number and nature of those writings. Under the discouragement of a public censure, broken in his health, broken in his fortunes, he enjoyed his retirement not above five years: a little portion of time! yet he found means to croud into it, what might have been the whole business, and the glory too, of a long and fortunate life. Some of his former pieces he methodized and enriched: several new ones he composed, no less considerable for the greatness and variety

of

of the arguments he treated, than for his manner of treating them. Nor are they works of mere erudition and labour, that require little else but strength of constitution and obstinate application: they are original efforts of genius and reflection, on subjects either new, or handled in a manner that makes them so. His notions he drew from his own fund: and they were solid, comprehensive, systematical; the disposition of his whole plan throwing light and grace on all the particular parts. In considering every subject, he seems to have placed himself in a point of view so advantageous and elevated, that he could from thence discover a whole country round him, and mark out the several spots of it, distinctly and with ease. These characters are equally due to the works in which he made some progress, and to those he could only attempt.

HIS supposed poverty has been much *Wilson* insisted on, not only by our own writers,

but by foreigners. Some of the former have asserted, that he languished out a solitary being in obscurity and indigence: and among the latter, *Le Clerc*, who was led into the same notion by a passage in one of *Howel's* letters, has animadverted with an honest indignation on the meanness of that Prince, who could leave such a man as he was to struggle, in his declining age, both with penury and affliction. I believe the matter has been exaggerated. Perhaps he did not enjoy affluence or entire ease of fortune: but his ordinary income must have placed him above sordid want and anxiety. *Dr. Rawley*, who lived long in his family, affirms that the King had given him, out of the Broad Seal and Alienation Office, to the value of eighteen hundred pounds a year; which, with his own lands amounting to a third part more, he retained to his death. But then, he had treasured up nothing in his prosperous condition against the day of adversity: and his pension was not only precarious,

carious, but ill-paid, by a King, who, instead of husbanding his revenues for great or good purposes, was daily lavishing them away, in fruitless negotiations, or on the least deserving of his subjects. Add to these things, that my Lord *Bacon* lay all this time under the incumbrance of a vast debt: and that he had doubtless expended very considerable sums in procuring or making experiments. Even those, whom we see close and sparing on every other occasion, are yet profuse in gratifying a favourite passion. Such were the causes of that distress and those difficulties into which he was often plunged. That they were many and great, we can entertain no doubt *. It is but too strongly confirmed to us by some unusual expressions in his letters to King *James*; where we find him pouring out his heart in complaints and supplications of such a strain, as every

Bacon,
Vol. IV.
Lett. 272.

one

* It appears by a letter of *Buckingham* to him that he asked for the Provostship of *Eaton College*, and was refused it.

one who reveres his memory will wish he had never uttered. Those who insist on the meanness, those who plead for the dignity, of human nature, may, in this one man, find abundant matter to support their several opinions. But, let us draw a veil over imperfections, and at the same time acknowledge, that a very ordinary penetration may serve to discover remarkable blemishes and failings in the most comprehensive minds, in the greatest characters, that ever adorned mortality.

An. 1625. KING *James* died in 1625; after an inglorious and a fatal reign of three and twenty years: despised by foreigners, despised and hated by his own subjects. The mischievous notions he broached, the perverse conduct he held, gave rise to those divisions that quickly after involved his kingdoms in all the guilt and misery of a civil war: that shook the *British* constitution to its foundations, and in the end overturned it; tho apparently

rently framed to last for ages, as it had been ages in building up and perfecting.

HIS unfortunate Chancellor survived him something above a year. The multiplicity of business and study in which he had been long engaged, but above all the anguish of mind he secretly laboured under, had undermined and broken into his health. After having been for some time infirm and declining, he owed his death at last to an excess, not unbecoming a philosopher; in pursuing, with more application than his strength could bear, certain experiments touching the conservation of bodies. He was so suddenly struck in his head and stomach, that he found himself obliged to retire into the Earl of *Arundel's* house at *Highgate*, near which he then happened to be. There he sickened of a fever, attended with a defluxion on his breast: and, after a week's illness, expired; on An. 1626. the ninth of *April*, in the sixty-sixth year of

of his age. How he bore this indisposition, or what discourses he held at the nearer approaches of death, no account is to be found; an omission which every reader must feel and regret: as nothing can awaken the attention, nothing affect the heart of man more strongly than the behaviour of eminent personages in their last moments; in that only scene of life wherein we are all sure, later or sooner, to resemble them. There remains only a letter, the last he ever wrote, addressed to that nobleman under whose roof he died: in which he compares himself to a celebrated philosopher of antiquity, *Pliny* the elder; who lost his life by enquiring, with too dangerous a curiosity, into the first great eruption of *Vesuvius*.

Bacon,
Vol. IV.
Letter
297.

THUS lived, and died, the Lord Chancellor *Bacon* *.

HE

* He continued single till after forty, and then took to wife a daughter of Alderman *Barnham* of *London*, with whom he received a plentiful fortune, but had by her no children: and she out-lived him

HE was buried privately in *St. Michael's* church near *St. Albans*. The spot that contains his remains lay obscure and undistinguished, till the gratitude of a private man, formerly his servant, erected a monument to his name and memory. In another country, in a better age, his monument would have stood a public proof in what veneration the whole

Sir Thomas Meautys.

him upwards of twenty years. Such readers as have any curiosity to know what regimen he observed, may take the following account of it in the words of his Chaplain. " His diet was rather plentiful and liberal than restrained. In his younger years he was much given to the finer and lighter sorts of meats: but afterwards he preferred the stronger, such as the shambles afforded; as those which bred the more firm and substantial juices, and less dissipable. He did not, you may be sure, neglect that himself, which he so much extolled to others in his writings, the frequent use of nitre; whereof he took the quantity of about three grains in thin warm broth every morning, for thirty years together. His ordinary physic was a maceration of rhubarb, infused into a draught of white-wine and beer mingled together for the space of half an hour, once in six or seven days, immediately before his meal, whether dinner or supper; that it might dry the body less. His receipt for the gout, which constantly gave him ease within two hours, is set down in the end of the Natural History." Vol. III. p. 233.

whole society held a Citizen, whose genius did them honour, and whose writings will instruct their latest posterity.

ONE passage in his will is remarkable. After bequeathing his soul and body in the usual form, he adds, " my name
 " and memory I leave to foreign nations;
 " and to mine own countrymen, after
Baconiana, p. 203. " some time be passed over." As to the former, he was, even in his life-time, looked upon with admiration by the most eminent men that *France* and *Italy* could then boast of: and by some of them visited; as One whose talents were an ornament, not only to his age, but to human nature it self. When the Marquis *D'Effiat* brought into *England* the Princess *Henrietta-Maria*, wife to *Charles* the First, he paid a visit to my Lord *Bacon*; who, being then sick in bed, received him with the curtains drawn. " You resemble the *Angels*, said that minister to him: we
 " hear

Voltaire,
Lettres sur
les Anglois, p.
 82.

"hear those beings continually talked
 "of, we believe them superior to man-
 "kind, and we never have the consola-
 "tion to see them." Among his coun-
 trymen, the names, alone, of those who
 have adopted his notions, and proceeded
 on his plan, are his highest encomium.
 To pass over a long line of philosophers,
 all illustrious; he reckons in the list of
 his followers a *Boyle*, a *Locke*, a *New-*
ton himself.

ONE singularity there was in his tem-
 perament, not easily to be accounted
 for: in every eclipse of the moon, whe-
 ther he observed it or not, he was cer-
 tainly seized with a sudden fit of faint-
 ing; which left him, without any re-
 maining weakness, as soon as the eclipse
 ended. He was of a middling stature;
 his forehead spacious and open, early
 impressed with the marks of age; his eye
 lively and penetrating; his whole ap-
 pearance venerably pleasing: so that the
 beholder was insensibly drawn to love,
 before

Rawley's
Life of
Bacon.

Evelyn of
Medals,
p. 340.

before he knew how much reason there was to admire him. In this respect, we may apply to my Lord *Bacon* what *Tacitus* finely observes of his father-in-law, *Agricola*: a good man you would readily have judged him to be, and have been pleased to find him a great man.

Osborn's
Advice to
a son.

THOSE talents that commonly appear single in others, and they too men of reputation, shone forth in him united and eminent. All his cotemporaries, even those who hated the Courtier, stand up and bear witness together to the superior abilities of the Writer and Pleader, of the Philosopher and Companion. In conversation, he could assume the most differing characters, and speak the language proper to each, with a facility that was perfectly natural; or the dexterity of the habit concealed every appearance of art: a happy versatility of genius, which all men wish to arrive at, and one or two, once in an age, are seen to possess. In public, he commanded the attention

rention of his hearers, and had their affections wholly in his power. As he accompanied what he spoke with all the expression and grace of action, his pleadings, that are now perhaps read without emotion, never failed to awaken in his audience the several passions he intended they should feel. This is not a picture of him drawn from fancy: it is copied, and that too but in miniature, after another taken by One who knew *B. Johnson*, in his *disco-*
veries. him well; a good judge of merit, and seldom known to err, at least in heightening a favourable likeness. As a philosopher, it is scarce hyperbolical to say of him, in Mr. *Addison's* words, that he had the sound, distinct, comprehensive knowledge of *Aristotle*, with all the beautiful lights, graces, and embellishments of *Cicero*. To this commendation of his talents, the Learned throughout *Europe* have given their common sanction, and own him for the father of the only valuable philosophy, that of fact and observation.

It remains then to consider him, more particularly than we have hitherto done in this most known and conspicuous part of his character; where his merit is unquestionably great and entirely his own. For, to the writings of the ancients he was not, he could not, be obliged. They had either mistaken the right road to natural knowledge: or if any of them struck into it by chance, finding the way difficult, obscure, and tedious, they soon abandoned it for ever. He owed to himself alone, to a certain intellectual sagacity, that beam of true discernment which shewed him at once, and as it were by intuition, what the most painful enquirers, for more than twenty ages backward, had searched after in vain. And here let me observe towards him the same impartiality I have hitherto aimed at: and, in order to know what he really did as a philosopher, place before the reader a short view of the state of learning in *Europe*, from the dark period of *Gothicism* down to the sixteenth century.

century. But let me at the same time acknowledge, that this account will be only a rude and imperfect sketch; consisting of a few detached particulars, without much order or method.

ALTHO the great era of ignorance has been fixed, justly enough, to those times when the northern Nations, like a mighty inundation, overspread the face of *Europe*; yet it is no less certain that barbarism and corruption were entered into arts and sciences ere the Savages had made any impression on the *Roman Empire*. Under them indeed, that darkness which had been long growing on the world, and gradually extinguishing every light of knowledge, soon became total, and threatened to be perpetual. In the eighth century, we find that the highest ambition of the Clergy was to vie with one another in chanting the public service, which yet they hardly understood. This important emulation run so high between the *Latin*

787.
*Joannis
Launoi.
op. t. 4.
p. 2.

and *French* priesthood, that *Charlemagne*, who was then at *Rome*, found it necessary to interpose, and decide the Controversy in person. The Monk, who relates this affair with a most circumstantial exactness, adds that the Emperor entreated Pope *Adrian* to procure him certain persons, who might teach his subjects the first principles of grammar and arithmetic; arts that were then utterly unknown in his dominions. This warlike Monarch, tho his own education had been so far neglected that he had never learned to write, discovered, by his natural good sense, the value of knowledge, and set himself to be its promoter and patron. He even allowed a public school to be opened in the imperial palace, under the direction of our famous countryman *Alcuin*; on whom he chiefly relied for introducing into *France* some tincture of that philosophy which was still remaining in *Britain*. But how slow and ineffectual the progress of any learning must have been, we
may

may guess from an edict of the Council of *Challons*, in the next century; which 813. earnestly exhorts all monasteries to be careful in having their manuals of devotion correctly transcribed: lest, while *Launoi*, p. 3. they piously mean to ask of God one thing, some inaccurate manuscript may betray them into praying for the quite contrary.

As to *Britain*, if learning had still some footing there in the eighth century, it was so totally exterminated from thence in the ninth; that, throughout the whole kingdom of the *West-Saxons*, no man *Hist. & antiq. univer. Oxon.* could be found who was scholar enough p. 13. to instruct our King *Alfred*, then a child, even in the first elements of reading: so that he was in his twelfth year before he could name the letters of the alphabet. When that renowned Prince ascended the throne, he made it his study to draw his people out of the sloth and stupidity in which they lay: and became, as much by his own example, as by the

encouragement he gave to learned men, the great restorer of arts in his dominions. And here we are called upon to observe, that as *France* had been formerly obliged to *England* in the person of *Alcuin*, who planted the sciences there under *Charlemagne*: our Island now received the same friendly assistance from thence by *Grimbald*, whom King *Alfred* had invited hither, and made Chancellor of *Oxford*. Such Events as these are too considerable, in the literary history of the ninth age, to be passed over unobserved. The rise of a noted grammarian, the voyage of an applauded doctor, are recorded, by the chroniclers of that century, with the same reverence that an ancient writer would mention the appearance of a *Lycurgus*, or a *Timoleon*; of a law-giver who new-models a state, or a hero who rescues a whole people from slavery.

BUT these fair appearances were of short duration. A night of thicker darkness

ness quickly overspread the intellectual world: and in the moral; followed a revolution still more deplorable. To common sense and piety, succeeded dreams and fables, visionary legends and ridiculous penances. The Clergy, now utter strangers to all good learning, instead of guiding a rude and vitious Laity by the precepts of the gospel, which they no longer read; amused them with forged miracles, or overawed them by the ghostly terrors of demons, spectres and chimeras. This was more easy, and more profitable too, than the painful example of a virtuous life. The profound depravity that was spread thro all conditions of men, ecclesiastic and secular, appears in nothing more plain than in the reasons assigned for calling several councils about this time. In one, new canons were to be made, forbidding adultery, incest, and the practice of pagan superstitions: as if these things had not till then been accounted criminal. In ^{Giannone,} ^{Istor. di} another, it was found necessary to declare, ^{Napoli,} ^{l. 5.}

that a number of Angels worshiped universally under certain names were altogether unknown: and that the church could not warrant the particular invocation of more than three. Another, which the Empress *Irene* had summoned for the reformation of discipline, ordained, that no Prelate should thenceforth convert his episcopal palace into a common inn; nor, in consideration only of any sum of money given him by one man, curse and excommunicate another. A fourth and fifth censure the indecency of avowed concubinage: and enjoin that Fryars and Nuns should no longer converse or live promiscuously in the same convent.

THE See of *Rome*, which should have been a pattern to the rest, was of all christian churches the most licentious*; and

* The book entitled, *The tax of the Roman Chancery*, published first at *Rome*, in the year 1514, furnishes us with a flagrant instance of this in the following passage, which I chuse not to translate. "Absolutio a lapsu carnis super quo-
cunque

and the pontifical chair often filled with men, who, instead of adorning their sacred character, made human nature itself detestable: a truth by many catholic writers acknowledged and lamented. Several Popes were, by their successors ^{Idem, l. 7.} excommunicated, their acts abrogated, and the sacraments administered by them pronounced invalid. No less than six were expelled by others who usurped their seat; two were assassinated: and the infamous *Theodora*, infamous even in

“ cunque actu libidinoso commissio per *Clericum*,
 “ etiam cum *monialibus*, intra et extra septa monasterii; aut cum *consanguineis* vel affinibus, aut
 “ filia spirituali, aut quibusdam aliis, sive ab uno-
 “ quoque de per se, sive simul ab omnibus ab-
 “ solutio petatur cum *dispensatione* ad *ordines* et
 “ *beneficia*, cum inhibitione tur. 36, duc. 3. Si
 “ verò cum illis petatur *absolutio* etiam a crimine
 “ commissio *contra naturam*, vel cum *brutis*, cum
 “ dispensatione, ut supra, et cum inhibitione tur.
 “ 90, duc. 12, car. 16. Si verò petatur tantum ab-
 “ solutio a crimine *contra naturam*, vel cum *bru-*
 “ *tis*, cum dispensatione et inhibitione, turon. 36,
 “ duc. 9. Absolutio pro *Moniali* que se permisit
 “ *pluries* cognosci intra et extra septa monasterii,
 “ cum *rehabilitate* ad *dignitates* illius ordinis, etiam
 “ *abbatiales*, turon. 36, duc. 9.” In the Edition
 of *Bois-le-duc*, there is “ Absolutio pro eo, qui inter-
 “ fecit patrem, matrem, sororem, uxorem . . .
 “ g. 5, vel 7.” Vide *Bayle*, art. *Banck*.

in that age, by her credit in the holy city obtained the triple crown for the most avowed of her gallants; who assumed the name of *John* the Tenth. An-

John XI. other of the same name was called to govern the Christian world at the age of twenty one; a bastard son of Pope *Sergius* who died eighteen years before. If such were the men who arrogated to themselves titles and attributes peculiar to the Deity, can we wonder at the greatest enormities among Lay-men? Their stupidity kept pace with the dissolution of their manners, which was extreme: they still preserved, for the very clergy we have been speaking of, a reverence they no longer had for their God. The most abandoned among them, miscreants, familiar with crimes that humanity startles at, would yet, at the hazard of their lives, defend the immunities of a church, a consecrated utensil, or a donation made to a convent. In such times as those, it were in vain to look for useful learning and philosophy.

Not

Not only the light of science, but of reason, seems to have been well-nigh extinguished.

It was not till late, after the sack of ^{An. 1453.} *Constantinople* by the *Turks*, that the writings of *Aristotle* began to be universally known and studied. They were then, by certain fugitive *Greeks*, who had escaped the fury of the *Ottoman* Arms, brought away and dispersed thro the *Western* parts of *Europe*. Some particular treatises of his, it is true, had been long made public: but chiefly in translations from the *Arabic*, done by men who, far from rendering faithfully the Author's sense, hardly understood his language. These however gave birth to the Scholastic Philosophy; that motley offspring of error and ingenuity: and to speak freely, the features of both parents were all along equally blended in the complexion of the daughter. To trace at length the rise, progress, and variations of this philosophy, would be an

an undertaking not only curious but instructive; as it would unfold to us all the mazes in which the force, the subtlety, the extravagance of human wit can lose themselves: till not only profane learning but divinity itself was at last, by the refined frenzy of those who taught both, subtilized into mere notion and air.

THEIR philosophy was neither that of *Aristotle* entirely, nor altogether differing from his. Whatever opinions the first founders of it had been able to draw, from *Boëtius* his *Latin* commentator, or from the wretched translations above-mentioned, these they methodized and illustrated, each according to his several talent, and the genius of the age he lived in. But this, instead of producing one regular and consistent body of science, even from wrong principles, ended in a monster, made up of parts every where misshapen and dissimilar. Add to this, that they left natural knowledge wholly uncultivated; to hunt after occult qualities,

lities, abstract notions, and questions of impertinent curiosity: by which they rendered the very Logic, their labours chiefly turned upon, intricate, useless, unintelligible.

ALSTEDIUS, in his chronology of the Schoolmen, has divided their history into three principal periods or successions: the first beginning with *Lanfranc*, An. 1050. Archbishop of *Canterbury*, who flourished about the middle of the eleventh century; and ending with *Albert* the Great An. 1320. two ages later: the second, that commences from him, determining in *Durand*; as the third and last ended in *Luther*, at the reformation. *Morhoff*, however, strenuously contends, that *Rucelinus* an *Englishman*, was properly the father of the Schoolmen: and that to him the sect of the Nominalists owed its rise and credit. He adds, that it revived afterwards in the person of *Occam*, another of our countrymen, and the perpetual antagonist of *Duns Scotus*, who had declared

Polyhistor.
Tom. II.
p. 73, &c.

declared for the Realists, and was reckoned their ablest champion. The learned reader needs not be told, that the Scholastic Doctors were all distinguished into these two Sects; formidable party-names, which are now as little known or mentioned as the controversies that once occasioned them. It is sufficient to say, that, like all other parties, they hated each other heartily; treated each other as heretics in logic: and that their disputes were often sharp and bloody; ending not only in the metaphorical destruction of common sense and language, but in the real mutilation and death of the combatants. For, to the disgrace of human reason, mankind in all their controversies, whether about a notion or a thing, a predicament or a province, have made their last appeal to brute force and violence. The titles * with which these Leaders were honoured by their followers, on account of the sublime reveries

* The profound, the subtle, the marvelous, the indefatigable, the irrefragable, the angelic, the seraphic, the fountain of life, light of the world, &c.

reveries they taught, are at once magnificent and absurd: and prove rather the superlative ignorance of those times than any transcendent merit in the men to whom they were applied. From this censure we ought nevertheless to except One, who was a prodigy of knowledge for the age he lived in, and is acknowledged as such by the age to which I am writing. I mean the renowned Fryar *Bacon*, who shone forth singly thro the profound darkness of those times; but rather dazzled than enlightened the weaker eyes of his cotemporaries. As if the name of *Bacon* were auspicious to philosophy, this Man, not only without assistance or encouragement, but insulted and persecuted, by the unconquerable force of his genius penetrated far into the mysteries of nature: and made so many new discoveries in Astronomy and Perspective, in Mechanics and Chimi-stry, that the most sober writers even now cannot mention them without some marks of emotion and wonder. It is
Dr.

Dr. *Friend's* observation, that he was almost the only Astronomer of his age: and the reformation of the Calendar, by him attempted and in a manner perfected, is a noble proof of his skill in that science. The construction of spectacles, of telescopes, of all sorts of glasses that magnify or diminish objects, the composition of gunpowder (which *Bartholdus Swartz* is thought to have first hit upon almost a century later) are some of the many inventions with justice ascribed to him. For all which, he was in his life-time calumniated, imprisoned, oppressed: and after his death wounded in his good name, as a magician who had dealt in arts, infernal and abominable. He tells us, that there were but four persons then in *Europe* who had made any progress in the Mathematics; and in Chemistry yet fewer: that those who undertook to translate *Aristotle* were every way unequal to the task; and that his writings, which, rightly understood, *Bacon* considered as the fountain of all knowledge,

knowledge, had been lately condemned and burned, in a synod held at *Paris*.

THE works of that celebrated Antient have, in truth, more exercised the hatred and admiration of mankind than those of all the other philosophers together.

Launoy enumerates no less than thirty-seven Fathers of the Church who have stigmatized his name, and endeavoured to reprobate his doctrines. *Morhoff* has reckoned up a still greater number of his commentators, who were at the same time implicitly his disciples: and yet both these authors are far from having given a complete list either of his friends or enemies. In his life-time he was suspected of irreligion, and, by the Pagan priesthood, marked out for destruction: the successors of those very men were his partizans and admirers. His works met with much the same treatment from the Christian clergy: sometimes proscribed for heretical; sometimes triumphant and acknowledged the great bul-

Lib. de
varia

Arist. fortuna, Tom. IV.

Polyhistor. Tom. II.

L

wark

wark of Orthodoxy. *Launoy* has written a particular treatise on the subject, and mentioned eight different revolutions in the fortune and reputation of *Aristotle's* philosophy. To pass over the intermediate changes, I will just mention two, that make a full and ridiculous contrast. In the above-mentioned Council held at *Paris* about the year 1209, the Bishops there censured his writings, without discrimination, as the pestilent sources of error and heresy; condemned them to the flames, and commanded all persons, on pain of excommunication, not to read, transcribe, or keep any copies of them. They went farther, and delivered over to the secular arm no less than ten persons; who were burned alive, for certain tenets, drawn, as those learned prelates had heard, from the pernicious books in question. Those very books, in the sixteenth century, were not only read with impunity, but every where taught with applause: and whoever disputed their orthodoxy, I had almost

Launois,
ubi supra.

almost said their infallibility, was persecuted as an infidel and miscreant. Of this the sophister *Ramus* is a memorable instance. Certain animadversions of his on the peripatetic philosophy occasioned a general commotion in the learned world. The university of *Paris* took the alarm hotly, and cryed out against this attempt as destructive of all good learning, and of fatal tendency to religion itself. The affair was brought before the parliament: and appeared of so much consequence to *Francis* the First, ^{Launoij,} that he would needs take it under his ^{tom. IV.} own immediate cognizance. The edict ^{p. 206.} is still extant, which declares *Ramus* insolent, impudent, and a liar. His books ^{10th of} are thereby for ever condemned, ^{May,} suppressed, ^{An. 1543.} abolished: and, what is a strain of unexampled severity, the miserable Author is solemnly interdicted from transcribing, even from reading, his own compositions!

*Bacon's
Apo-
thegms.*

WE might from hence be led to imagine, that when the authority of an ancient philosopher was held so sacred, philosophy itself must have been thoroughly understood, and cultivated with uncommon success. But the attachment of those Doctors was to a name, not to truth, or valuable science: and our Author very justly compares them to the Olympic Wrestlers, who abstained from necessary labours, that they might be fit for such as were not so. Under their management, it was a philosophy of words and notions, that seemed to exclude the study of nature; that instead of enquiring into the properties of bodies, into the laws of motion by which all effects are produced, was conversant only in logical definitions, distinctions, and abstractions, utterly barren and unproductive of any advantage to mankind. The great aim of those solemn triflers was rather to perplex a dispute than to clear up any point of useful disquisition; to triumph over an enemy, than to en-
large

large the knowledge, or better the morals of their followers. So that this captious philosophy was a real obstacle to all advances in sound learning, human and divine. After it had been adopted into the christian theology, far from being of use to explain and ascertain mysteries, it served only to darken and render doubtful the most necessary truths; by the chicanery of argumentation with which it supplied each sect, in defence of their peculiar and favourite illusions. To so extravagant a height did they carry their idolatry of *Aristotle*, that some of them discovered, or imagined they discovered in his writings, the doctrine of the Trinity; that others published formal dissertations to prove the certainty of his salvation, tho a heathen: and that a Patriarch of *Venice* is said to have called up the Devil expressly, in order to learn from him the meaning of a hard word in *Aristotle's* physics. But the crafty Demon, who perhaps did not understand it himself, answered in a voice so low

*Boyle, art.
Equibars*

and inarticulate, that the good Prelate knew not a word he said. This was the famous *Hermolaus Barbaro*. The *Greek* word, that occasioned his taking so extraordinary a step is the *Entelechia* of the *Peripatetics*: from whence the schoolmen raised their substantial forms; and which *Leibnitz*, towards the end of the last century, attempted to revive in his Theory of motion.

THE Reformation it self, that diffused a new light over *Europe*, that set men upon enquiring into errors and prepossessions of every kind, served only to confirm the dominion of this philosophy: protestants as well as papists entrenching themselves behind the authority of *Aristotle*, and defending their several tenets by the weapons with which he furnished them. This unnatural alliance, of theology with the peripatetic doctrines, rendered his opinions not only venerable but sacred: they were reckoned as the land-marks of both faith and reason, which

which to pull up or remove would be daring and impious. Innovations in philosophy, it was imagined, would gradually sap the very foundations of religion, and in the end lead to downright atheism. If that veil of awful obscurity, which then covered the face of nature, should be once drawn; the rash curiosity of mankind would lead them to account for all appearances in the visible world, by second causes, by the powers of matter and mechanism: and thus they might come insensibly to forget or neglect the great original cause of all. This kind of reasoning convinced the multitude, overawed the wiser few, and effectually put a stop to the progress of useful knowledge.

SUCH, in general, were the dispositions of mankind when Sir *Francis Bacon* came into the world: whom we will not consider as the founder of a new sect, but as the great assertor of human liberty; as one who rescued reason and truth

from the slavery in which all sects alike had, till then, held them. As a plausible hypothesis, a shining theory, are more amusing to the imagination, and a shorter way to fame, than the patient and humble method of experimenting, of pursuing nature thro all her labyrinths by fact and observation; a philosophy, built on this principle, could not, at first, make any sudden or general revolution in the learned world. But its progress, like that of time, quiet, slow and sure, has in the end been mighty and universal. He was not however the first among the moderns who ventured to dissent from *Aristotle*. *Ramus*, *Patricius*, *Bruno*, *Severinus*, to name no more, had already attacked the authority of that tyrant in learning, who had long reigned as absolutely over the opinions, as his restless *pupil* had of old affected to do over the persons of men. But these writers invented little that was valuable themselves, however justly they might reprehend many things in him.

And

And as to the real improvements made in some parts of natural knowledge, before our author appeared, by *Gilbert*, *Harvey*, *Copernicus*, *Father Paul*, and some few others, they are well known, and have been deservedly celebrated. Yet there was still wanting one great and comprehensive plan, that might embrace the almost infinite varieties of science, and guide our enquiries aright in all. This Sir *Francis Bacon* first conceived, in its utmost extent; to his own lasting honour, and to the general utility of mankind. If we stand surprized at the happy imagination of such a system, our surprize redoubles upon us when we reflect, that he invented and methodized this system, perfected so much, and sketched out so much more of it, amidst the drudgery of business and the civil tumults of a court. Nature seems to have intended him peculiarly for this province, by bestowing on him with a liberal hand all the qualities requisite: a fancy voluble and prompt to discover
the

the similitudes of things; a judgment steady and intent to note their subtlest differences; a love of meditation and enquiry; a patience in doubting; a slowness and diffidence in affirming; a facility of retracting; a judicious anxiety to plan and dispose. A mind of such a cast, that neither affected novelty, nor idolized antiquity, that was an enemy to all imposture, must have had a certain congeniality and relation to truth. These characters, which, with a noble confidence, he has applyed to himself, are obvious and eminent in his Instauration of the Sciences: a work by him designed, not as a monument to his own fame, but a perpetual legacy to the common benefit of others. He has divided the whole of it into six capital parts: with a short account of which we shall close this imperfect relation of his life and writings.

Bacon,
Vol. II.
p. 264,
265.

De augmentis scientiarum.

I. THE first part of this Instauration proposes a general survey of human know-

knowledge: and this he executed in that admirable treatise entitled, *The Advancement of Learning*. As he intended to raise a new and lasting structure of philosophy, founded not in arbitrary opinions or specious conjectures, but in truth and experience; it was absolutely necessary to his design, first to review accurately the state of learning as it then stood, thro all its provinces and divisions. To do this effectually, required, with an uncommon measure of knowledge, a discernment not only exquisite but universal: the whole intellectual world was subjected to its examination and censure. That he might not lose himself on a subject so vast and of such variety; he has, according to the three faculties of the soul, memory, fancy, understanding, ranged the numerous train of arts under three great classes, history, poetry, philosophy. These may be considered as the principal trunks from which shoot forth, in prodigious diversity, the lesser parts and branches of science.

science. Whatever is deficient, erroneous, or still wanting in each, he has pointed out at large: together with the properest means for amending the defects, for rectifying the errors, and for supplying the omissions in all. Upon the whole, he was not only well acquainted with every thing that had been discovered in books before his time, and able to pronounce critically on those discoveries: he saw clearly, and at the end of this treatise has marked out in one general chart, the several tracts of science that lay still neglected or unknown. And to say truth, some of the most valuable improvements since made have grown out of the hints and notices scattered thro this work: from which the moderns have selected, each according to his fancy, one or more plants to cultivate and bring to perfection.

Novum
Organon.

2. THE design of the Novum Organon, which stands as the second part to his Instauration, and may be reckoned the

the most considerable, was to raise and enlarge the powers of the mind, by a more useful application of its reasoning faculty to all the different objects that philosophy considers. In this place, our Author offers to the world a new and better Logic; calculated not to supply arguments for controversy, but arts for the use of mankind: not to triumph over an enemy by the sophistry of disputation, but to subdue nature it self by experiment and enquiry. As it differs from the vulgar Logic in its aim, it varies no less from that captious art in the form of demonstrating: for it generally rejects *sylogism*, as an instrument rather hurtful than serviceable to the investigation of nature, and uses in its stead a severe and genuine *induction*. Not the trivial method of the schools, that, proceeding on a simple and superficial enumeration, pronounces at once from a few particulars, exposed to the danger of contradictory instances: but an *induction* that examines scrupulously the experiment in question,

question, views it in all possible lights, rejects and excludes whatever does not necessarily belong to the subject; then, and not till then, concluding from the affirmatives left. A croud of instances might be brought to shew how greatly this method of enquiry has prospered in the hands of the moderns; and how fruitful it has been of new discoveries, unknown and unimagined by antiquity. But I will only mention one that may stand in place of many; the Optics of our immortal *Newton*: where, in a variety of experiments, he has analyzed the nature and properties of light itself, of the most subtile of all bodies, with an accuracy, a precision, that could hardly have been expected from examining the grossest and most palpable. From whence, by the method of *Induction*, he has raised the noblest theory that any age or country can shew.

Phaeno-
mena uni-
versi.

3. It has been the fate of almost every considerable scheme for the good of man-

mankind to be treated, at first, as visionary, or impracticable, merely for being new. This our Author foresaw, and endeavoured to obviate, in the third part of his *Instauration*; by furnishing materials himself towards a natural and experimental history: a work which he thought so indispensably necessary, that without it the united endeavours of all mankind, in all ages, would be insufficient to rear and perfect the great structure of the sciences. He was aware too, that even men of freer and more extensive notions, who relished his new Logic, might be deterred from reducing it to practice, by the difficulties they would meet with in experimenting, according to the rules by him prescribed. He therefore led the way to other enquirers, in his *Sylva Sylvarum*, or history of nature: which, however imperfect in many respects, ought to be looked upon as extensive and valuable for that age, when the whole work was to be begun. This collection, which did not appear
till

till after his death, has been generally considered as detached from, and independent on his general plan: and therefore his design in making and recording these experiments has not been duly attended to by the reader. They are a common repository or store-house of materials, not arranged for ornament and show, but thrown loosely together for the service of the philosopher: who may from thence select such as fit his present purpose; and with them, by the aid of that Organ or Engine already described, build up some part of an axiomatical philosophy, which is the crown and completion of this system. The phenomena of the universe he ranges under three principal divisions; the history of generations or the production of all species according to the common laws of nature; that of preter-generations or of births deviating from the stated rule; and thirdly, the history of nature as confined or assisted, changed or tortured by the art of man: Which last discloses to us a
new

Bacon,
Vol. II.
P. 3.

new face of things, and as it were another world of appearances. The use of such a history he reckons two-fold: either the knowledge of qualities in themselves; or to serve for the first matter of a true and useful philosophy. With this view only did our Author make and gather together the miscellaneous collection I am speaking of. That many particular experiments have been found doubtful or false cannot be wondered at: the whole was then a tract of science uncultivated and desert. If several considerable men, treading in the path he struck out for them, have gone farther and surveyed it more exactly than he did, yet to him is the honour of their discoveries in a manner due. It was *Columbus* alone who imagined there might be a new world: and who had the noble boldness to go in search of it, thro an ocean unexplored and immense. He succeeded in the attempt; and led his followers into a spacious continent, rich and fruitful. If succeeding adventurers have pene-

M

trated

trated farther than he into its several regions, marked out and distinguished them with more accuracy; the result of these discoveries has less extended their fame than it has raised and enlarged his.

Scala Intellectus.

4. AFTER these preparations, nothing seems wanting but to enter at once on the last and most exalted kind of philosophy: but the author judged, that, in an affair so complicated and important, some other things ought to precede, partly for instruction, and partly for present use. He therefore interposed a fourth and fifth part: the former of which he named *Scala Intellectus*, or a series of steps by which the Understanding might regularly ascend in its philosophical researches. For this purpose, he proposed examples of enquiry and investigation, agreeable to his own method, in certain subjects; selecting such especially as are of the noblest order, and most widely differing from one another; that instances of every sort might not be wanting.

The

The fourth part then was to contain a particular application and illustration of the second. In this light we chuse to consider the six monthly histories which he proposed to write on six principal topics in natural knowledge: namely, of winds; of life and death; of rarefaction and condensation; of the three chymical principles, salt, sulphur, mercury; of bodies heavy and light; of sympathy and antipathy. The first three, in the order I have here placed them, he prosecuted at some length; and in a manner that shews with what a happy sagacity he could apply his own rules to the interpretation of nature. The wonder is, that other enquirers since his time have done so little towards perfecting the two first mentioned, things of so great concern to human society, and to every individual. As to the three last, we have only a short introduction to each: death having prevented him from writing any thing on the subjects themselves. Such is our condition here:

whoever is capable of planning useful and extensive schemes dies always too soon for mankind, even in the most advanced age.

Anticipa-
tiones Phi-
los. secun-
da.

5. OF the fifth part he has left nothing but the title and scheme. It was indeed to be only a temporary structure, raised with such materials as he himself had either discovered, or tryed, or improved; not according to the due form of genuine *induction*, but by the same common use of the understanding that others had employed. And this was to remain no longer than till he had raised,

Philoso-
phia pri-
ma, five
activa.

6. THE sixth and sublimest part of this grand Instauration, to which all the preceding are merely subservient: a philosophy purely axiomatical and scientific; flowing from that just, castigated, genuine manner of enquiry, which the author first invented and applied. But this he despaired of being able to accomplish:

plish: and the Learned of all countries from his days have been only labouring some separate or lesser parts of this amazing edifice, which ages to come may not see finished, according to the model left them by this one Man.

SUCH, and so unlimited were his views for the universal advancement of science; the noble aim to which he directed all his philosophic labours. What *Caesar* said, in complement, to *Tully* may, with strict justice, be applied to him: that it was more glorious to have extended the limits of human wit, than to have enlarged the bounds of the *Roman* world. Sir *Francis Bacon* really did so: a truth acknowledged not only by the greatest private names in *Europe*, but by all the public societies of its most civilized nations. *France, Italy, Germany, Britain*, I may add even *Russia*, have taken him for their leader, and submitted to be governed by his institu-

tions. The empire he has erected in the learned world is as universal as the free use of reason: and One must continue, till the Other is no more.



ERRATA.

P. 21. l. 13. for *newer* read *ever*.

P. 104. l. 12. for *juſtice* read *juſtice*.

P. 106. l. 23. for *verdict* read *judgment*.



A
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OF ALL
My Lord *BACON*'s
WRITINGS,

As they are printed in the
Edition of 1740.

M 4

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OF ALL

My Lord



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